



# Special Education Needs Information Report

## **1. The kinds of special educational needs for which provision is made at the school.**

St Joseph's Catholic School is a mainstream primary school and a member of the St Nicholas Owen Catholic Multi Academy Company. We accept pupils between ages 4 and 11 – Reception Class to Year 6.

We believe that every child should be valued as an individual to be treated fairly and with consideration. This philosophy is at the heart of our treatment of children with special educational needs. They, like all other children, are entitled to a broad and balanced curriculum differentiated according to their needs.

We support children with a range of Special Educational Needs and disabilities including, cognition and learning, speech and communication and interaction, sensory and physical needs and social, emotional and mental health difficulties.

There are no specialist units within the school.

We work with a range of external agencies from education, health and social care where appropriate to ensure we meet the needs of children with SEND (special educational needs and/or disability) so that they make the best possible progress.

## **2. Information about the schools policies for the identification and assessment of pupils with special educational needs.**

### Definition of SEND

A pupil who 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.

### Identification and Assessment of Pupils with SEND

Some children are identified as children with SEND before entry to school by the parents, Health Visitor or Specialist Early Years Service (SEYS). Other children are identified through observation and/or assessment as falling significantly outside the range of expected development or academic progress of their immediate peer group. The class teacher has

initial responsibility for addressing the concerns by considering how they could make differentiated, additional or different provision to meet the particular needs of that child through high quality teaching. In most instances this will be enough to help the child catch up; however if concerns still exist, then the school adopts the graduated response approach as recommended in the SEN Code of Practice 2014 consisting of a continuum of support. The class teacher will discuss their concerns with the SENCO and will include gathering information about the child's progress and assessments completed by the SENCO. Parents will be invited to meet with the class teacher and the SENCO to share in these discussions and where appropriate the child will also be included.

If it is decided that this pupil has SEND they will be placed on the SEND Register. The class teacher will devise interventions "**additional to or different from**" those provided as part of the school's usual differentiated curriculum. The teacher continues to remain responsible for working with the child on a daily basis and for planning and delivering an individualised programme. An Individual Education Plan (IEP) will be written by the class teacher with support from the SENCO. The SENCO will then take the lead in planning future interventions and monitoring and reviewing the action. If necessary the SENCO may request further assessments to inform planned support from outside agencies such as the Dudley Learning Support Service or Speech and Language Therapy Service; this will only happen after discussion with and written consent from parents.

**3. Information about the school's policies for making provision for pupils with special educational needs whether or not pupils have EHC (Education Health Care) Plans, including-**

***a) How the school evaluates the effectiveness of its provision for such pupils;***

The SENCO and Assessment Coordinator evaluate and monitor pupil progress through teacher assessment, standardised tests and achievement of individual targets. The SENCO then updates the SEN register and the provision map to reflect the needs of the pupils. Feedback is given to the Senior Leadership Team and reported to the Academy Committee. Mrs Hale meets with the Academy Committee SEN Representative at least termly to analyse the findings of this review.

The effectiveness of provision for pupils with SEND is monitored directly through:

***b) The school's arrangements for assessing and reviewing the progress of pupils with special educational needs;***

- Teacher's continual assessment of pupil's work.
- Feedback from teaching assistants who are leading interventions.
- Termly meetings with parents.
- Pupil progress meetings with class teacher and assessment coordinator.
- Monitoring of individual targets set by external agencies at review meetings.

***c) The school's approach to teaching pupils with special educational needs;***

At St Joseph's class teachers are responsible for delivering high quality teaching, differentiated for individual pupils. Following identification and assessment we adopt a **graduated response** to meeting special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). As much as possible support will occur in class, this may involve specialised resources or equipment and/or support from a Teaching Assistant (TA). Where SEN interventions involve group or one-to-one teaching away from the main class teacher, the class teacher will still retain responsibility for the pupil, working closely with any teaching assistants or specialist

staff involved, to **plan and assess** the impact of interventions. The SENCO monitors the delivery and impact of interventions. The SENCO will 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 the support.

***d) How the school adapts the curriculum and learning environment for pupils with special educational needs;***

St Joseph's RC Primary School believe that every child should be valued as an individual to be treated fairly and with consideration. This philosophy is at the heart of our treatment of children with special educational needs. They, like all other children, are entitled to a broad and balanced curriculum differentiated according to their needs.

All children access a broad and balanced curriculum including the SATs and Phonics tests alongside their peers. For a very small number of children the curriculum and assessments may be amended to meet their very specific needs – where this is the case it is written into the child's SEN Support Plan and parents are kept informed. On some occasions a child may be disapplied from the National Tests, if they are working too far below the expected levels and it is decided, in consultation with parents that it is not in their best interests to do so.

At the present time, we have individual children with special needs other than educational needs, although none of these needs are physical.

In the event of any requests being received from parents or the LA for other pupils to attend our school we need to take professional advice to assess their level of difficulty and how access to various parts of the school and, therefore, involvement in the whole curriculum would be achieved.

To assist us in this process we would, of course, work alongside any relevant outside agencies.

There is a disabled toilet in this building. However, at present, it is used by male staff and visitors so arrangements would need to be made for pupil access to this facility. This could be done via a safety local that could be opened from the outside in case of an emergency. In the past, there was a necessity to add a ramp for access, this now affords access via the infant playground to the Key Stag 1 corridor and thence across the hall to the school office. The Key Stage 2 corridor and classrooms have four steps (in two blocks) up from the hall level and there is an access via an external pathway through the key Stage 2 doors to the Key Stage 2 corridor.

Each individual child's needs are, of course, different and would need to be assessed and the parents consulted prior to enrolment. Any further additional adjustments that are required would need to be completed before the child attends the school, including the appointment of suitable support staff. This process would, of course, be completed as soon as possible. We would strive to make all reasonable adjustments to facilitate the needs of each child within the limitations of the buildings and financial constraints.

There is one parking bay allocated for blue badge holders in the school car park and two bays allocated in the public car park adjacent to the school.

***e) Additional support for learning that is available to pupils with special educational needs;***

The school's SEN Policy provides much greater detail about the type of support, interventions, strategies and resources that may be used to help meet the needs of each child. Once a child's needs have been identified and the relevant assessments undertaken, the class teacher and /or Mrs Hale will inform parents as to how school is planning to support their child and what they might do to help at home.

This additional and/or different support might be in the form of:

- Special equipment e.g. coloured overlays, special pencil grips, scissors, cushions,
- Different reading schemes e.g. Oxford Reading Tree, Ginn All Aboard, Read Write Inc
- Two TAs have had basic training in Makaton for children with language difficulties
- Additional TA support within the classroom directed at a particular child or group more frequently than the majority of children within the class
- Targeted individual support within the classroom (focus might be behavioural, language based, support for working memory, etc
- Larger print size/coloured paper
- Reading Interventions – Read Write Inc One to One Tutoring, Wellington Square,
- Social Communication Group Support e.g. Time to Talk
- Group Co-ordination development – Get Moving
- Speech and Language Therapy support (individual/group)
- Targeted individual /paired or small group support during the afternoon to address specific and individual targets set out on the IEP – children are withdrawn from their classes to facilitate this.
- RM Maths

***f) Activities that are available for pupils with special educational needs in addition to those available in accordance with the national curriculum***

Children with Special Needs are actively encouraged to access activities before and after school – such as Extra Club, Multi Skills and gymnastics as well as clubs after school such as drama, Irish dancing, netball and football.

In some cases Additional support on trips – this is usually included in their IEP or management plan but where needed, additional targeted support will be made available to support a child with their behaviour or language needs for example. For some children individual visual timetables and/or social stories are written or photographs shown to prepare them for the visit.

***g) Support that is available for improving the emotional and social development of pupils with special educational needs***

We recognise that persistent disruptive or withdrawn behaviours do not necessarily mean that a child has SEN.

Appropriate assessments will be carried out to determine if causal factors are related to undiagnosed learning difficulties, communication and interaction difficulties or mental health issues and appropriate support will be put in place. This may include circle time activities in class, Social Skills evidence –based intervention groups or the involvement of specialist support. Specialist support may involve: Educational Psychology, Speech and Language, School Health Advisor or referral by GP to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service.

Appropriate support will be provided in distressing circumstances where bullying is suspected or there has been bereavement, as we are aware of the significant impact that this can have on the well-being of a pupil.

Our HLTA, Mrs Hounsell runs a social skills group each week and Mrs Hale runs nurture and social development groups as required throughout the year.

#### **4. The name and contact details of the Special Education Needs Coordinator**

The Special Education Needs Coordinator (SENCO) is **Mrs Catherine Hale**. She is a qualified teacher and has achieved the National Award of Special Education Needs Coordination.

##### Contact details

Email: [chale@st-jo-st.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:chale@st-jo-st.dudley.sch.uk)

Telephone: 01384 818325

Mrs Hale works on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

#### **5. Information about the expertise and training of staff in relation to children and young people with SEN and about how specialist expertise will be secured.**

Staff training needs are identified by the Senior Leadership Team, SENCO and staff during termly year group SEN meetings and during performance management reviews. Some training is delivered by Mrs Hale where appropriate and additional training has been delivered through the EP Service, Learning Support Service, Occupational Therapy team and the Speech and Language Therapy team.

Mrs Hale attends the SENCO forum termly and she cascades the information to the staff and Academy Committee.

Mrs Hale holds the National Award of Special Education Needs Coordination.

#### **6. Information about how equipment and facilities to support children and young people with special educational needs will be secured.**

We work closely with specialist professionals to ensure that accurate information is accessed regarding equipment and facilities for pupils with SEN/ disabilities. Children's specific needs are identified through the SEN review process, where specific equipment and/or resources are deemed to be necessary to support learning they are recorded in the reports submitted by outside agencies and included on the child's IEP or management plan. This is discussed with the Principal and resources are purchased accordingly.

#### **7. The arrangements for consulting parents of children with special educational needs about, and involving such parents in, the education of their child.**

Each term parents of pupils with SEND will be invited to a review meeting with the SENCO and class teacher to discuss their child's progress. If an outside specialist has been working with a child there may be additional meetings that parents will be invited to. Parents can

Speak to their child's class teacher or to Mrs Hale if they have a concern. Mrs Hale works on Mondays and Tuesdays, however an appointment can be made with the school office if you have any concerns.

**8. The arrangements for consulting young people with special educational needs about, and involving them in, their education.**

The class teacher, SENCO or teaching assistant will have an opportunity to discuss any targets and strategies that will be put in place with the child on a one to one basis. The member of staff will record the child's thoughts on their strengths and areas for development and any suggestions they have for targets to work towards.

Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need are supported to submit their views in writing as part of the Annual Review.

**9. Any arrangements made by the Academy Committee relating to the treatment of complaints from parents with special educational needs concerning the provision made at the school.**

As a school we believe that the Special Educational Needs of pupils are best met when there is effective collaboration and communication between school, other agencies, families and pupils. We aim to foster good working relations with all of these groups especially parents.

Any complaints will be dealt with in line with St Joseph's Complaints Policy.

**10. How the Academy Committee involves other bodies, including health and social services bodies, local authority support services and voluntary organisations, in meeting the needs of pupils with special educational needs and in supporting the families of such pupils.**

The school purchases the services of Dudley Learning Support Service and Dudley Educational and Child Psychology Service. We are able to directly refer pupils to the Physical and Sensory Support Service, The Sycamore Partnership Service (behaviour) for advice. School can refer to Speech and Language Therapy directly and to Occupational Therapy through the school nurse. Referrals to CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service) have to be made by the parent or carer through the GP. However school will support parents through this process.

**11. The contact details of support services for the parents and pupils with special educational needs, including those for arrangements made in accordance with clause 32.**

Dudley SENDIASS (formerly Dudley Parent Partnership Service) provides impartial information, advice and support to young people and parents, covering special educational needs, disability, health and social care.

Helpline number: 01384 236677

Address: Trafalgar House, 47-49 King Street, Dudley, DY2 8PS

**12. The school's arrangements for supporting pupils with special educational needs in transferring between phases of education**

For pupils entering St Joseph's in Reception Class Mrs Hale and the Reception class teacher will liaise with the pre-schools the Specialist Early Years Service and SEN Team as necessary.

For pupils entering or transferring at other times during their primary education we will liaise with the previous or new school to ensure reports and information is passed on.

Information is passed on to the receiving school as soon as possible. Most of our children transfer to Hagley Catholic High School and there is a transfer programme in place during the Year Six to liaise with Mrs Imrie the SENCO at Hagley. For pupils who transfer to other secondary education all information is passed on promptly and Mrs Hale will liaise with SENCO of the receiving school to ensure a smooth transition.

**13. Information on where the local authority's local offer is published.**

<http://www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/localoffer/>