



St John's Catholic Comprehensive School SEN & Disability Policy/SEN Information Report

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Excellence for All
Service to Others
Inspired by Christ

*Adopted by the Strategy Team: March 2017
Review Date: March 2018*

First point of contact regarding SEN the daily operation of SEN in St John's:

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St John's Catholic Comprehensive School
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Kent DA12 2JW
Deputy Learning Support Co-ordinator: Mrs L Barden

The LS leadership is accessible via: Learningsupport@stj.kent.sch.uk

Learning Support is line-managed in school by Mrs O Kelham who is a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

The Governor with SEN responsibility can be contacted via the school

STATEMENT OF INTENT

St. John's firmly believes that children and young people have the capacity to make progress academically, socially and spiritually. As a consequence, the school seeks to remove all barriers to learning and facilitate full participation in the community of the school.

We believe that all students and young adults are entitled to be given equality of opportunities so they reach their full potential – in all aspects of school life.

We recognise the uniqueness of each individual and seek to provide a rich and varied learning experience for all students.

We believe that everybody is entitled to a broad and balanced curriculum that is relevant to their current and future needs.

St John's is committed to providing the best possible learning environment and to offer a curriculum that offers all individuals a sense of achievement and thereby helps them to develop confidence and self-esteem. St. John's will have due regard for the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice 2014 (CoP) when carrying out its duties towards pupils experiencing SEN or disability.

St John's values the opinions of students and recognises the contributions that parents can make to the success of students experiencing difficulties accessing aspects of school. As a consequence, St John's aims to keep parents informed when special needs are identified and when interventions are being initiated. All parents should be routinely informed of their child's progress towards personal targets – including all students on the SEN register.

Aims and Objectives:

The school seeks to ensure that all students are included, regardless of academic ability, race, disability, gender or social origins. We seek to make every child and young person valued and respected; permitting them to make the best possible contribution to society throughout their lives.

St John's will seek to:

- give children and young people with SEN the greatest possible access to a broad and balanced curriculum;
- provide a differentiated curriculum appropriate to individual needs and ability;
- ensure the identification of all children and young people requiring SEN provision is made as early as possible in their school career;

- make provision for all identified children and young people experiencing SEN to ensure appropriate and challenging progress is made;
- work with the wider community (students, families, school staff and agencies) to ensure that the identification used, and interventions offered are as comprehensive and effective as possible;
- meet the training needs of teachers and teaching assistants involved with students experiencing SEN.
- foster an atmosphere in which SEN children and young people feel valued and can develop a sense of self-worth and achievement.
- Focus on individual's needs rather than labels.

Definition of SEN

A child or young person experiences SEN 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 if he or she:

- (a) has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age; or
- (b) 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 in mainstream post-16 institutions.

SEN Code of Practice (2014, p 4)

Definition of Disability

Many children and young people who experience SEN may also have a disability under the Equality Act 2010 – that 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’. 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’ *SEN Code of Practice (2014, p5)*

1 The kinds of special educational need for which provision is made at the school

At St John's we can make provision for wide range of frequently occurring special educational needs without the need for a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan. For example, students on the SEN register currently experience a variety of needs including: dyslexia, dyspraxia, speech and language delays, autistic spectrum disorder, general learning difficulties, mild sensory impairments and behaviour difficulties rising out of learning or emotional needs. There are other, less frequent, special needs that the school has less experience of. When applications to join the school are made, the school will do all that is practically possible to accommodate those needs; working with parents, outside agencies and students as appropriate. It will also work with parents to ensure that honest discussions occur regarding the school's suitability to accommodate any needs are made from an informed point of view.

The school also currently meets the needs of pupils with more severe and complex barriers that warrant enhanced intervention under Statements of Special Educational Needs / Education, Health and Care Plans. The decision regarding the admission of any pupil with a statement of special educational need / Education, Health and Care plan is made by the Local Authority. The school will not advise against such admission unless inclusion is incompatible with the efficient education of others and therefore requires

unreasonable steps to be made, affecting the learning of others or the effective use of school and LEA resources.

The admission arrangements for pupils without a Statement of Special Educational Needs / Education, Health and Care Plan are laid out in the school's admissions policy that can be read on the school's website or in school. The policy purposefully seeks not to discriminate against or disadvantage disabled children or those with special educational needs in the admissions process.

Parents and guardians of students experiencing SEN or disability are encouraged to share concerns and information regarding their child's individual needs. They are welcome to visit the school to view the environment and make an appointment to discuss individual needs and provision with the Learning Support Co-ordinator or school's pastoral team via the school reception.

2 Information about the policy for identification and assessment of pupils with SEN

St John's school seeks to gain awareness of students' needs at the earliest possible opportunity. Primary schools are routinely contacted in the preparation for transition into year 7. For casual admissions, the school will seek to contact the most recent school attended to gain a case history. Parents are given the opportunity to share history, concerns and also to highlight prior provision that has or has not worked as soon as a place has been offered. Parents are encouraged to share relevant third party reports and contacts.

Once at St John's, we continuously monitor the progress of all pupils. We use a range of assessments, including:

- The regular marking of assessments and assignments by subject teachers
- Collecting data six times a year from all subject areas; permitting a comparative review of academic progress to be made by the school. This data is analysed by subject teachers and subject leaders who will alert the Learning Support Co-ordinator of concerns.
- Key Stage 2 data informs the baseline from which continuous progress is measured and minimum target grades are set.
- Students entering the school are assessed using the NFER Cognitive Abilities Tests.
- Students' spelling levels are established routinely for students in Key Stage 3 using a standardised spelling test and
- Reading progress is monitored using the Access Reading Test in the same years.

Where progress is not sufficient, even if special educational need has not been identified, the teachers will put in place extra support to enable the pupil to catch up. This will typically include extra support; often through differentiated materials to acknowledge different learning styles or weakness in basic literacy or numeracy skills. Teachers may offer additional explanation, including out of lesson support or offer access to alternative recording methods. Additionally, adaptations may be made to seating arrangements and class size too.

Some pupils may continue to make inadequate progress, despite high-quality teaching targeted at their areas of weakness. For these pupils, and in consultation with parents, we will use a range of assessment tools to determine the cause of the learning difficulty. At St. John's School we are experienced in using assessment tools including: The Aston Index; Neale Analysis; Dyslexia Screening Test (DST); British Picture Vocabulary Scales, DASH assessment of handwriting, the Diagnostic Reading Test and the Boxall Profile. As appropriate, we have access to external advisors who are able to administer more specialist assessments.

The purpose of this more detailed assessment is to understand what additional resources and different approaches are required to enable the pupil to make better progress. These will be shared with parents, put into a SEN support plan and reviewed regularly, and refined / revised if necessary. At this point we will have identified that the pupil has a special educational need because the school is making special educational provision for the pupil which is additional and different to what is normally available.

If the pupil is able to make good progress using this additional and different resource (but would not be able to maintain this good progress without it) we will continue to identify the pupil as having a special educational need. If the pupil is able to maintain good progress without the additional and different resources, he or she will not be identified with special educational needs. When any change in identification of SEN is changed parents will be notified via the term progress reports.

We aim to ensure that all teachers and support staff who work with the pupil are aware of the support to be provided and the teaching approaches to be used. It is essential that attention is given to the development of independence. Consequently, support will always be at the minimum level required to make a difference.

3 Information about the school's policies for making provision for pupils with special educational needs whether or not they have EHC Plans, including

3a How the school evaluates the effectiveness of its provision for such pupils

All students are set achievement targets that are challenging but realistic. Progress towards those targets is monitored – initially by subject teachers and subject leaders. The Learning Support Department uses data capture, teacher reports and observations of students and their work to track progress towards the various goals.

Each review of the SEN support plan will be informed by the views of the pupil, parents and class/subject teachers and the assessment information from teachers which will show whether adequate progress is being made.

The *SEN Code of Practice (2014, 6.17)* describes inadequate progress thus:

- 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 child and peers
- Widening the attainment gap

For pupils with or without a Statement of Special Educational Needs / Education, Health and Care Plan there will be an annual review of the provision made for the child, which will enable an evaluation of the effectiveness of the special provision. The collation of all annual review evaluations of effectiveness will be reported to the governing body.

3b the school's arrangements for assessing and reviewing the progress of pupils with special educational needs

Every pupil in the school has their progress tracked six times per year as the Milestone data is collected and analysed. The school regularly screens reading in KS3 using standardised tests to check progress. In addition to this, pupils with special educational needs may have more frequent assessments of reading age, spelling age etc. The assessments we use at St. John's School are as referred to in section 2. Using these it will be possible to see if pupils are increasing their level of skills in key areas. The Learning Support Department monitors the progress of students on the SEN register in the core subjects.

If these assessments do not show adequate progress is being made the SEN support plan will be reviewed and adjusted.

3c the school's approach to teaching pupils with special educational needs

High quality teaching, differentiated for individual pupils, is the first step in responding to pupils who have or may have SEN. Additional intervention and support cannot compensate for a lack of good quality teaching. Schools should regularly and carefully review the quality of teaching for all pupils, including those at risk of underachievement. This includes reviewing and, where necessary, improving, teachers' understanding of strategies to identify and support vulnerable pupils and their knowledge of the SEN most frequently encountered

SEN Code of Practice (2014, 6.37)

In St John's School the quality of teaching was judged to be good in our last Ofsted inspection (2015) and the school is working to improve this to outstanding. A Section 48 inspection has found teaching to be "overall good with examples of outstanding, factors underpinning the rapid improvement in the school's performance in public examinations."

The routine observation of teaching in the school has also revealed a significant increase the lessons graded as "good" or better, indicating that teaching is becoming more inclusive at a pre- SEN stage. To support this, we are adopting the Mainstream Core Standards advice developed by Kent County Council to ensure that our teaching conforms to best practice within the local context. This is being shared with staff via the school's SEN Link group.

In meeting the Mainstream Core Standards the school employs some additional teaching approaches, as advised by internal and external assessments e.g. one to one tutoring / precision teaching / mentoring, small group teaching, use of ICT software learning packages. These are delivered by additional staff employed through the funding provided to the school as 'notional SEN funding'

3d How the school adapts the curriculum and learning environment for pupils with special educational needs

At St John's School we show regard to the advice in the Mainstream Core Standards on how to adapt the curriculum and the learning environment for pupils with special educational needs. We also incorporate the advice provided as a result of assessments, both internal and external, and the strategies described in Statements of Special Educational Needs / Education, Health and Care Plans. We work with a range of advisory staff and adhere to the recommendations they make. We currently have regular visits for the Specialist Teaching and Learning Service – Hearing; visual and Cognition and Learning

As part of our requirement to keep the appropriateness of our curriculum and learning environment under review, the school has inserted walls to divide some teaching areas in to more traditional classrooms. These improvements will help reduce extraneous noise, thus reducing an obstacle to learning and improving the learning environment. Care is taken to match the needs of the students to the most appropriate learning space for them.

3e additional support for learning that is available to pupils with special educational needs

As part of our budget we receive 'notional SEN funding'. This funding is used to ensure that the quality of teaching is good in the school and that there are sufficient resources to deploy additional and different teaching for pupils requiring SEN support. The amount of support required for each pupil to make good progress will be different in each case and a full list of the interventions we can offer is on our provision map. The provision we make is constantly reviewed and developed to match identified needs.

A team of Learning Support Assistants work with students in lessons – focusing on up to four students in any one lesson. Some students are extracted from registration, lessons or invited to after school sessions

for specific programmes targeting obstacles to their learning. Care is taken to ensure that the impact on the student of such withdrawal from lesson is a positive one; seeking to avoid missing important activities for example.

In very few cases a very high level of resourcing is required. The funding arrangements require schools to provide up to £6000 per year of resource for pupils with high needs, and above that amount the Local Authority should provide top up to the school. This sum may include the staff costs for individual and small group intervention, specialist equipment and resourcing. High needs funding may be granted for a 12 month period to enable specific outcomes to be achieved. The LEA controls and monitors the process: setting eligibility criteria and setting staffing costs based on averages across the county.

3f How the school enables pupils with special educational needs to engage in activities of the school (including physical activities) together with children who do not have special educational needs

All clubs, trips and activities offered to pupils at St John's School are available to pupils with special educational needs either with or without a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education, Health and Care Plan. Where it is necessary, the school will use the resources available to it to provide additional adult support or materials to enable the safe participation of the pupil in the activity.

3g support that is available for improving the emotional and social development of pupils with special educational needs

At St John's School we understand that an important feature of the school is to enable all pupils to develop spiritual, emotional resilience and social skills, both through direct teaching, for instance, whole school assemblies, personal development lessons, form-tutor mentoring and indirectly with every conversation adults have with pupils throughout the day.

For some pupils, with the most need for help in this area, we also can provide additional support from Deacon Michael, access to the pastoral team and the welfare support officer, enhanced mentoring (in addition to that offered by form tutors) and individual meetings with a life coach.

Pupils in the early stages of emotional and social development, because of their special educational needs, will be supported to enable them to develop and mature appropriately. This will usually require additional and different resources, beyond that required by pupils who do not need this support.

4 The name and contact details of the SEN Co-ordinator

The Learning Support Co-ordinator at St John's School is Peter Coode, who is a qualified teacher and holds a M.Ed. in SEN and Inclusion –incorporating a module entitled Professional Development for SENCOs.

Peter Coode is available on 01474 534718 or (preferably) by email pcoode@stj.kent.sch.uk

An alternative contact is via learningsupport@stj.kent.sch.uk which is monitor by several staff within the Learning Support Department.

5 Information about the expertise and training of staff in relation to children and young people with special educational needs and how specialist expertise will be secured

Members of the Learning Support Team have been given access to training including:

- STJ Supporting in Class Strategy

- Child Protection Training
- Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Supporting Teaching and Learning
- Whole staff Safeguarding INSET (All LSAs)
- Behaviour Management
- ASD Awareness

In addition the following staff have received the following enhanced and specialist training

- Facilitating Transition from KS2 to KS3 (JS)
- Young People and Autism (AT/ DM)
- In-house training to develop in-class support (All LSAs)
- Trouble Teens (SW)
- VI/ HI Training (JS)
- Autistic Champions (LB)
- Food Hygiene (EG)

Two of the team have successfully completed HTLA qualifications (LB, JS). The school also offers apprenticeship opportunities

Sharing of good practice and developing strategies to support is on-going. Whenever possible, we draw upon our own resources to make training as effective and bespoke as possible. The team meets weekly where good practice is regularly shared. Should training needs be identified that we do not hold experience of, we will endeavour find a provider who is able to deliver it. Training providers we could approach include: the SMILE CENTRE (Ifield School), Educational Psychologist, occupational therapists, physiotherapist, dyslexia specialists and the STLS. The cost of training is covered by the notional SEN funding.

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

Where external advisors recommend the use of equipment or facilities which the school does not have, we will seek to purchase it using the notional SEN funding, or seek it by loan. For highly specialist communication equipment the school will seek the advice of the KCC Communication and Assistive Technology team.

7 The arrangements for consulting parents of children with special educational needs about, and involving them in, their education

All parents and guardians of pupils at St John's are routinely invited to discuss the progress of their children formally with teaching staff on at least one occasion and with form tutors once in an academic year. Every student receives a termly progress reports indicating grade and current SEN status. In addition we are happy to arrange meetings outside these times and welcome the contributions of the students themselves.

As part of our normal teaching arrangements, all pupils will be offered access to some additional teaching to help them catch-up if progress monitoring indicates that it is necessary; this will not imply that the pupil has a special educational need.

If, following this normal provision, improvements in progress are not seen, we will contact parents to discuss the use of internal or external assessments which will help us to address these needs better. The purpose of the assessment is to identify the most appropriate outcome for students and the methods to achieve it. From this point onwards the pupil may be identified as having special educational needs

because special educational provision is being made for them. Parent will be consulted on the planning and reviews of this provision. The views of students are recognised as essential and are sought, listened to and taken into account. Parental cooperation and support is key to securing appropriate provision.

In addition to this, parents of pupils with a statement of SEN / Education, Health and Care Plan will be invited to contribute to and attend an annual review, which, wherever possible will also include other agencies involved with the pupil. Information will be made accessible for parents. Again, the views of the student is treated seriously and taken into account when decisions are made.

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

No intervention put in place by the school will be effective without the cooperation of the student. During the period of identification of needs, students are interviewed using a standard form which is designed to obtain the student's perspective on their needs.

When a pupil has been identified to have special educational needs because special educational provision is being made for him or her, the pupil will be consulted about and involved in the arrangements made for them as part of person-centred planning. Parents are likely to play a more significant role in earlier years, but the young person will take more responsibility and act with greater independence at the upper end of the school.

Students included in interventions are expected to discuss with those working with them their feelings. In order to facilitate this students are being encouraged to produce a document outlining their thoughts and preferences to share with all their staff.

On the completion of a period of intervention, students are asked to complete an evaluation form which is used as part of the review process.

9 The arrangements made by the governing body relating to the treatment of complaints from parents of pupils with special educational needs concerning the provision made at the school

The normal arrangements for the treatment of complaints at St John's School are used for complaints about provision made for special educational needs. We encourage parents to discuss their concerns with the Learning Support Co-ordinator (SENCO) to resolve the issue in the first instance. In the rare occasions when matters cannot be resolved, a complaint can be formally made to the Chair of the governing body.

If the complaint is still not resolved, after it has been considered by the governing body, then a disagreement resolution service or mediation service can be contracted. If it remains unresolved after this, the complainant can appeal to the First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability), if the case refers to disability discrimination, or to the Secretary of State for all other cases.

There are some circumstances, usually for children who have a Statement of SEN or EHCPs where there is a statutory right for parents to appeal against a decision of the Local Authority. Complaints which fall within this category cannot be investigated by the school.

10 How the governing body 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 governing body have engaged with the following bodies:-

- Free membership of LIFT for access to specialist teaching and learning service

- Ability to make ad hoc requests for advice from Communication and Assistive Technology Team, etc.
- Liaison with Social Services and health bodies as required.
- Membership of professional networks for learning support, including the local SENCO forum

11 The contact details of support services for the parents of pupils with special educational needs, including those for arrangements made in accordance with clause 32 (Parent Partnership Services)

Kent Parent Partnership Service (KPPS) provides free, impartial, confidential, advice, support and options around educational issues for parents who have children with special educational needs or disabilities (0-19). They empower parents to play an active and informed role in their child's education. They can be contacted on

HELPLINE: 03000 41 3000

Office: 0300 333 6474 and

Minicom: 0300 333 6484

E-mail: kentparentpartnershipservice@kent.gov.uk

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/kpps>

12 The school's arrangements for supporting pupils with special educational needs in transferring between phases of education or in preparing for adulthood and independent living

At St John's School we work closely with the educational settings used by the pupils before they transfer to us in order to seek the information that will make the transfer as seamless as possible.

When offers of placement have been accepted, St John's will routinely contact primary schools for all students. When a student has been highlighted as experiencing a special need, the Learning Support Co-ordinator, or his representative will make additional contact with the school to discuss the needs and tried provision with the school's SENCO or their representative.

Parents are invited to provide information to the Learning Support Department using a form provided as part of the admissions pack.

For the most vulnerable at transfer, the Learning Support Department will offer an additional visit to smooth transition. In addition to letting the student see the school and hence reduce anxiety over the summer break, it permits observation of them in the school environment. Where there are more complex needs or impairments, students will be permitted to gain enhanced experience of the school with more visits. Specialist advice is sought as deemed appropriate.

We also contribute information to a pupils' onward destination by providing information to the next setting. We respond promptly to requests for information about prior special arrangements and interventions to the local FE colleges for example.

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

The local authority's local offer is published on www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs/about-the-local-offer and parents without internet access should make an appointment with the LEARNING SUPPORT CO-ORDINATOR for support to gain the information they require. Local libraries may be able to facilitate internet access too.

This policy was written in line with the requirements of:-

- Children and Families Act 2014

- SEN Code of Practice 2014
 - SI 2014 1530 Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014
 - Part 3 Duties on Schools – Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators
 - Schedule 1 regulation 51– Information to be included in the SEN information report
 - Schedule 2 regulation 53 – Information to be published by a local authority in its local offer

- Equality Act 2010
- Schools Admissions Code, DfE 1 Feb 2012
- SI 2012 1124 The School Information (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012
- SI 2013 758 The School Information (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following school policies

- Behaviour/Discipline Policy,
- Equalities Policy,
- Safeguarding Policy,
- Homework Policy,
- Complaints Policy
- Admissions Policy

This policy was developed using the county template and customised for St. John’s Catholic Comprehensive. The policy has been put out for public consultation on the school’s website. Additionally, a sample of parents of students on the school’s SEN register, the school’s senior leadership team and teaching staff in the SEN LINK group have contributed to its formulation. A number of students have also been consulted via interview.

Approved by the governing body on

Next review on