



**ST MARGARET OF SCOTLAND
CATHOLIC PRIMARY AND PRE SCHOOL**

**SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS
POLICY**



September 2024

Date:	Approved By:
Next Review Due:	

1. Vision & Values

Our Mission: Learning with Jesus in faith, hope and love.

Our Vision: Human flourishing and the uniqueness of every individual as a child of God is at the heart of our Catholic educational enterprise. In this context, a human being fully alive is one who is open to faith – to love – to joy – and to learning. They are daily becoming the person God created them to be and they are ready to delight in their God-given gifts, and to use them in the service of the Common Good.

We believe that each child is created in the image of God and is unique. All children have specific educational needs and are entitled to the best possible teaching support. Every child with SEN and disabilities in this inclusive school is entitled to fulfil his/her optimum potential and to build their skills, knowledge and understanding along with their sense of self-worth.

At St Margaret's we are committed to providing an inclusive curriculum to ensure the best possible progress for all our children whatever their needs or abilities. Every teacher is a teacher of every child including those with SEN. Not all children with disabilities have special educational needs and not all children with SEN meet the definition of disability but this policy covers all of these children.

(* Inclusion means where appropriate SEN children or children with a disability receive the support they need in order to attend classes with other children.)

Children who are 'fully alive' will be full participants in school life and will look forward to their time in school. Through the application of this policy, we will unlock the potential of each child to truly delight in their God-given gifts and talents.

2. Aims & Objectives

Our special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) policy aims to:

- Make sure our school fully implements national legislation and guidance regarding children with SEND
- Set out how our school will:
 - Support and make provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities
 - Provide children with SEND access to all aspects of school life so they can engage in the activities of the school alongside children who do not have SEND
 - Help children with SEND fulfil their aspirations and achieve their best
 - Help children with SEND become confident individuals living fulfilling lives
 - Help children with SEND make a successful transition into adulthood
 - Communicate with children with SEND and their parents or carers and involve them in discussions and decisions about support and provision
- Explain the roles and responsibilities of everyone involved in providing for children with SEND
- Make sure the SEND policy is understood and implemented consistently by all staff

3. Legislation & Guidance

This 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 children 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 (SENDCOs) 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 children with disabilities
- The [Public Sector Equality Duty](#) (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010), which set out the school's responsibilities to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation; and advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic (which includes having a disability) and those who don't share it
- The [Governance Handbook](#), which sets out trustees' responsibilities for children with SEND
- The [School Admissions Code](#), which sets out the school's obligation to admit all children whose education, health and care (EHC) plan names the school, and its duty not to disadvantage unfairly children with a disability or with special educational needs

This policy also complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

4. Inclusion & Equal Opportunities

At our school we strive to create an inclusive teaching environment that offers all children, no matter their needs and abilities, a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum. We are committed to offering all children the chance to thrive and fulfil their aspirations.

We will achieve this by making reasonable adjustments to teaching, the curriculum and the school environment to make sure that children with SEND are included in all aspects of school life.

5. Definitions

5.1 Special educational needs

A child 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.

5.2 Disability

Children are considered to have a **disability** if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to do normal daily activities.

The school will make reasonable adjustments for children with disabilities, so that they are not at a substantial disadvantage compared with their peers.

5.3 The 4 areas of need

The needs of children with SEND are grouped into 4 broad areas. Children 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 child's particular area(s) of need, at the relevant time.

AREA OF NEED	
Communication and interaction	<p>Children 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>Children who are on the autism spectrum often have needs that fall in this category.</p>
Cognition and learning	<p>Children 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"> • Specific learning difficulties, which impact 1 or more specific aspects of learning, such as: dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia • Moderate learning difficulties • Severe learning difficulties • 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
Social, emotional and mental health	<p>These needs may reflect a wide range of underlying difficulties or disorders. Children may have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health difficulties such as anxiety, depression or an eating disorder • Attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactive disorder or attachment disorder • Suffered adverse childhood experiences <p>These needs can manifest in many ways, for example as challenging, disruptive or disturbing behaviour, or by the child becoming withdrawn or isolated.</p>
Sensory and/or physical	<p>Children with these needs have a disability that hinders them from accessing the educational facilities generally provided.</p> <p>Children may have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sensory impairment such as vision impairment, hearing impairment or multi-sensory impairment • A physical impairment <p>These children may need ongoing additional support and equipment to access all the opportunities available to their peers.</p>

6. Roles & Responsibilities

6.1 The SENDCO

The SENDCO at our school is Mrs Jenny Newman.

She will:

- Inform any parents that their child may have SEN and then liaise with them about the needs and any provision made
- 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 children 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 children 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 children
- Advise on the deployment of the school's delegated budget and other resources to meet children's 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 child and their parents are informed about options and that a smooth transition is planned
- When a child moves to a different school or institution: Make sure that all relevant information about a child's SEN and the provision for them are sent to the appropriate authority, school or institution in a timely manner
- Work with the headteacher and school governors to make sure the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements
- Make sure the school keeps its records of all children with SEND up to date and accurate
- With the headteacher, 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 headteacher, 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
- Prepare and review information for inclusion in the school's SEN information report and any updates to this policy
- With the headteacher 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

6.2 The governing board

The governing board is responsible for making sure the following duties are carried out, though the duties can be delegated to a committee or an individual:

- Co-operate with the LA in reviewing the provision that is available locally and developing the local offer
- Do all it can to make sure that every child with SEND gets the support they need

- Make sure that children with SEND engage in the activities of the school alongside children who don't have SEND
- Inform parents when the school is making special educational provision for their child
- Make sure that the school has arrangements in place to support any children with medical conditions
- Provide access to a broad and balanced curriculum
- Have a clear approach to identifying and responding to SEND
- Provide an annual report for parents on their child's progress
- Record accurately and keep up to date the provision made for children with SEND
- Publish information on the school website about how the school is implementing its SEND policy, in a SEN information report
- Publish information about the arrangements for the admission of disabled children, the steps taken to prevent disabled children being treated less favourably than others, the facilities provided to assist access of disabled children, and the school's accessibility plans
- Make sure that there is a qualified teacher designated as SENDCO for the school and that the key responsibilities of the role are set out, and monitor the effectiveness of how these are carried out
- Determine their approach to using their resources to support the progress of pupils with SEND

6.3 The SEND link governor

The SEND link governor is Mrs Jenny Dowsett.

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 SENDCO to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision in the school

6.4 The headteacher

The headteacher will:

- Work with the SENDCO and SEND link governor to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision within the school
- Work with the SENDCO and school governors to make sure the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements
- Have overall responsibility for, and awareness of, the provision for children 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 SENDCO has enough time to carry out their duties
- Have an overview of the needs of the current cohort of children on the SEND register
- Advise the LA when a child needs an EHC needs assessment, or when an EHC plan needs an early review
- With the SENDCO, 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 SENDCO, 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 SENDCO 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

6.5 Class teachers

Each class teacher is responsible for:

- Planning and providing high-quality teaching that is differentiated to meet children's needs through a graduated approach
- The progress and development of every child 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 SENDCO to review each child's progress and development, and decide on any changes to provision
- Ensuring they follow this SEND policy and the SEN information report
- Communicating with parents regularly to:
 - Set clear outcomes and review progress towards them
 - Discuss the activities and support that will help achieve the set outcomes
 - Identify the responsibilities of the parent, the child and the school
 - Listen to the parents' concerns and agree their aspirations for the child

6.6 Parents or carers

Parents or carers should inform the school if they have any concerns about their child's progress or development.

Parents or carers of a child on the SEND register will always be given the opportunity to provide information and express their views about the child's SEND and the support provided. They will be invited to participate in discussions and decisions about this support. They will be:

- Invited to termly meetings to review the provision that is in place for their child
- Asked to provide information about the impact of SEN support outside school and any changes in the child's needs
- Given the opportunity to share their concerns and, with school staff, agree their aspirations for the child
- Given an annual report on the child's progress

The school will take into account the views of the parent or carer in any decisions made about the child.

6.7 The child

Children will always be given the opportunity to provide information and express their views about their SEND and the support provided. They will be invited to participate in discussions and decisions about this support. This might involve the child:

- Explaining what their strengths and difficulties are
- Contributing to setting targets or outcomes
- Attending review meetings
- Giving feedback on the effectiveness of interventions

The child's views will be taken into account in making decisions that affect them, whenever possible.

7. SEN Information Report

The school publishes a SEN information report on its website, which sets out how this policy is implemented in the school.

The information report will be updated annually and as soon as possible after any changes to the information it contains.

8. Our Approach To SEND Support

8.1 Identifying children with SEND and assessing their needs

We will assess each child's current skills and levels of attainment when they start at the school. This will build on information from previous settings and Key Stages, where appropriate. We will also consider any evidence that the child may have a disability and if so, what reasonable adjustments the school may need to make.

Class teachers will regularly assess the progress of all children 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.

When teachers identify an area where a child is making slow progress, they will target the child's area of weakness with differentiated, high-quality teaching. If progress does not improve, the teacher will raise the issue with the SENDCO to have an initial discussion about whether this lack of progress may be due to a special educational need. Where necessary they will, in consultation with the child's parents or carers, consider consulting an external specialist.

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

Potential short-term causes of impact on behaviour or performance will be considered, such as bullying or bereavement. Staff will also take particular care in identifying and assessing SEN for children whose first language is not English.

When deciding whether the child 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 child 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.

If a child is joining the school, and:

- Their previous setting has already identified that they have SEN

- They are known to external agencies
- They have an education, health and care plan (EHCP)

then the school will work in a multi-agency way to make sure we get relevant information before the child starts at school, so support can be put in place as early as possible.

8.2 Consulting and involving children and parents

The school will put the child and their parents at the heart of all decisions made about special educational provision.

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

- Everyone develops a good understanding of the child'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 child's record and given to their parents.

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

8.3 The graduated approach to SEN support

Once a child 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 child's class teacher and the SENDCO will carry out a clear analysis of the needs. The views of the child and their parents will be taken into account. 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 child's need. For many children, 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 child, the teacher and the SENDCO will decide which adjustments, interventions and support will be put into place, the expected outcomes, and a clear date for review.

All staff who work with the child will be made aware of their needs, the outcomes sought, the support provided and any teaching strategies or approaches that are needed. This information will be recorded on our management information system and will be made accessible to staff in an Inclusion Passport.

Parents will be fully aware of the planned support and interventions and may be asked to reinforce or contribute to progress at home.

3. Do

The child'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 teacher, they still retain responsibility for the child. 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 SENDCO will support the teacher in further assessing the child'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 child'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 children (where appropriate)
- The level of progress the child has made towards their outcomes
- The views of teaching staff who work with the child

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

8.4 Levels of support

School-based SEN provision

Children receiving SEN provision will be placed on the school's SEND register. These children have needs that can be met by the school through the graduated approach. Where the children's needs cannot be adequately met with in-house expertise, staff will consider involving an external specialist as soon as possible.

The provision for these children is funded through the school's notional SEND budget.

On the census these children will be marked with the code K.

Education, health and care (EHC) plan

Children who need more support than is available through the school's school-based SEN provision may be entitled to an EHC plan. The plan is a legal document that describes the needs of the child, the provision that will be put in place, and the outcomes sought.

The provision for these children will be funded from the school's notional SEND budget, and potentially from the LA (from the high-level needs funding block of the dedicated schools grant).

On the census these children will be marked with the code E.

8.5 Evaluating the effectiveness of SEN provision

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

- Tracking progress, including by using provision maps
- Carrying out the review stage of the graduated approach in every cycle of SEN support
- Using children's questionnaires
- Monitoring by the SENDCO
- Holding annual reviews for children with EHC plans
- Getting feedback from the child and their parents

9. Expertise And Training Of Staff

We firmly believe in the SEND Code of Practice 2014 guidance that, "all teachers are teachers of children with special educational needs" and that quality first teaching is essential.

In order to maintain and develop the quality of teaching and provision to respond to the strengths and needs of all children, all staff are encouraged to undertake training and development.

General and specific training needs and strategies are identified and actioned through the school's professional development and school improvement plans. Training is planned in accordance with the requirements of the school improvement plan. This includes training for SEN topics and access to outside agency advice.

All new teachers and TAs are fully briefed by the SENDCO in order that they understand the systems and structure in place around in the school's SEND provision and practice and to discuss the needs of individual children.

Teaching Assistants (TAs) are invited to all appropriate training sessions. The SENDCO addresses the ongoing needs of the Teaching Assistants and also organises regular TA training sessions to share best practice and implement new strategies and initiatives.

The school's SENDCO regularly attends the local authority's SENDCO network meetings in order to keep up to date with local and national updates in SEND, as well as STCAT SENDCO meetings.

10. Links With External Professional Agencies

The school recognises that it won't be able to meet all the needs of every child. Whenever necessary the school will work with external support services such as:

- Specialist teachers or support services
- Educational psychologists
- Occupational therapists, speech and language therapists or physiotherapists
- General practitioners or paediatricians
- School nurses
- Child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS)
- Education welfare officers
- Social services

11. Admission & Accessibility Arrangements

11.1 Admission arrangements

The Governing Body applies the LA admissions criteria which do not discriminate against children with special education needs or disabilities, and its admissions policy has due regard for the guidance in the Codes of Practice which accompany the SEND and Disability Act 2001.

Parents or Carers seeking the admission of a child with mobility difficulties are advised to approach the school well in advance so that consultations can take place.

11.2 Accessibility arrangements

- The school's accessibility plan is updated annually and is available on our website.
- The school is committed to ensuring full access to all areas of the curriculum for all its children.

- The school aims to provide positive, caring support to all degrees of need across race/gender/class/physical and learning disabilities, according to its Equal Opportunities Policy.
- The school has disabled toilet facilities.

12. Complaints About SEND Provision

The school welcomes the opportunity to resolve all concerns through discussion of the issues at the widest level. Should parents/carers be concerned about any aspect of their child's Special Educational Need they should contact the class teacher in the first instance, or the SENDCO if the problem persists, then the Headteacher. The formal complaints procedure is to put any complaint in writing to the Governing Body.

13. Monitoring & Evaluation Arrangements

13.1 Evaluating the effectiveness of the policy

We are constantly looking for ways to improve our SEND policy. We will do this by evaluating whether or not we are meeting our aims and objectives set out in section 2.

We will evaluate how effective our SEND provision is with regards to:

- All staff's awareness of children with SEND at the start of the autumn term
- How early children are identified as having SEND
- Children's progress and attainment once they have been identified as having SEND
- Whether children with SEND feel safe, valued and included in the school community
- Comments and feedback from children and their parents

13.2 Monitoring the policy

This policy will be reviewed by the SENDCO **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 full governing board.

14. Links With Other Policies & Documents

This policy links to the following documents:

- SEN information report
- The local offer
- Accessibility plan
- Behaviour policy
- Equality information and objectives
- Supporting children with medical conditions policy
- Attendance policy
- Safeguarding/child protection policy
- Complaints policy

Equality Monitoring

Date:

- 1. Does this policy have any implications for people of relevant protected characteristics (RPC) *?**

Yes

- 2. If 'yes', will it advantage or disadvantage any particular group?**

No- this policy will ensure all pupils with RPC will receive the same opportunities in their education

- 3. How will this policy if relevant, promote good relations between people of RPC and those without?**

This policy will promote good relations as it encourages all pupils, regardless of gender, ethnicity and race to achieve their full potential

Monitored by:

**Age, disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnerships, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.*