

# Ashfield Junior School



## Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) Policy

Signed by:

Headteacher

Date: February 2023

Chair of Governors

Date: February 2023

Updated: February 2023

Review Date: February 2024

## **Statement of intent**

Ashfield Junior School values all pupils and celebrates diversity of experience, interest and achievement. All pupils need to experience praise, recognition and success, and pupils with SEND have equal entitlement to this.

Through successful implementation of this policy, the school aims to:

- Eliminate discrimination.
- Promote equal opportunities.
- Foster good relationships between pupils with SEND and pupils without SEND.

The school will work with the LA within the following principles, which underpin this policy:

- The involvement of children, parents and young people in decision-making
- The identification of children and young people's needs
- Collaboration between education, health and social care services to provide support
- High quality provision to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND
- Greater choice and control for young people and parents over their support

## **Aim**

**'Together we achieve'**. Our motto is central to our aim that all children should thrive in our school in all aspects of their personal development. Through our SEND policy we aim to identify and support children who have specific areas of difficulty, so that they can achieve their full academic and social potential and have equal access to a broad, balanced curriculum.

The purpose of this policy is also to inform children and parents, staff, governors and the wider community how the school ensures effective provision for children with special educational needs. Sources of further information and some useful weblinks can be found at the end of this document.

## **Objectives of the SEND policy:**

- To identify, at the earliest possible opportunity, barriers to learning and participation for pupils with SEND;
- To ensure that every child experiences success in their learning and achieves to the highest possible standard;
- To enable all children to participate in lessons and make progress in their learning;
- To value and include the contribution of all children in the life of the school;
- To work in partnership with parents to enable them to participate in their child's learning progress;
- To work with the Governing Body to enable them to fulfil their statutory monitoring role with regard to the Policy Statement for SEND;
- To work closely with external support agencies, where appropriate, to support the needs of individual pupils;
- To ensure that all staff have access to training, professional development opportunities and advice to support quality teaching and learning for all pupils.

## **Defining SEND**

The 2014 Code of Practice says that:

*'A person has SEND if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her. At compulsory school age this means he or she has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others 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.'*

(2014 SEN Code of Practice: 0 to 25 Years)

## **Identification, Monitoring & Tracking**

**Identifying children at SENS (SEN Support):** Children with SEND are identified by one of three assessment routes all of which are part of the overall approach to monitoring progress of all pupils:

- The progress of every child is monitored at termly pupil progress meetings, where children are identified as not making progress in spite of Quality First Teaching. They are discussed with the SENDCO and a plan of action is agreed.
- Class teachers are continually aware of children's learning. If they observe that a child, as recommended by the 2014 Code of Practice, is making less than expected progress, given their age and individual circumstances, they will seek to identify a cause. This can be characterised by progress which:
  1. Is significantly slower than that of their peers starting from the same baseline;
  2. Fails to match or better the child's previous rate of progress;
  3. Fails to close the attainment gap between the child and their peers.
- Parents sometimes ask us to look more closely at their child's learning. We take parental requests seriously and investigate them all. Frequently, the concern can be addressed by Quality First Teaching or some parental support. Otherwise, the child is placed at SENS on our SEND register.

Although the school can identify special educational needs, and make provision to meet those needs, we do not offer diagnoses. Parents are advised to contact their GP if they think their child may have a physical or physiological barrier which impedes their learning. The SEND co-ordinator will be able to help and support with this if needed.

All children are closely monitored, and their progress tracked each term. Those at SENS are additionally tracked by the SENDCO.

## **Categories of SEND**

As set out in the SEND Code of Practice 2014, there are four broad categories of SEND:

1. Communication and interaction;
2. Cognition and learning;
3. Social, emotional and mental health;
4. Physical and sensory.

### **Communication and interaction**

Pupils with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) have difficulty in communicating with others, often because they have difficulty saying what they want, they cannot understand what is being said to them, or they do not understand or use social rules of communication.

The school recognises that:

- Pupils with Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC), including Asperger's Syndrome and Autism, can have particular difficulties with social interaction.
- The profile for every pupil with SLCN is different and their needs may change over time. They may have difficulty with one, some, or all the different aspects of speech, language or social communication at different times of their lives.

The SENDCO will work with pupils, parents and language and communication experts (where necessary) to ensure pupils with communication and interaction difficulties reach their potential.

## **Cognition and learning**

Pupils with learning difficulties may require support.

The school understands that learning difficulties cover a wide range of needs, such as moderate learning difficulties (MLD), severe learning difficulties (SLD) and profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD). The SENDCO will ensure that any provision offered will be suitable to the needs of the pupil.

Specific learning difficulties (SpLD), affect one or more specific aspects of learning. This encompasses a range of conditions such as dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia.

## **Social, emotional and mental health difficulties**

Pupils may experience a wide range of social and emotional difficulties that manifest themselves in many ways, including becoming withdrawn or isolated, or displaying challenging, disruptive and disturbing behaviour. The school recognises that these behaviours may reflect underlying mental health difficulties such as anxiety or depression, and the school will implement a programme to support pupils with these difficulties.

## **Sensory or physical needs**

Impairments that prevent or hinder pupils from using the school facilities, such as vision impairment (VI), do not necessarily have SEND. The school will ensure staff understand that:

- Some conditions can be age-related and can fluctuate over time.
- A pupil with a disability is covered by the definition of SEND if they require special educational provision.

## **SEND at Ashfield Junior**

### **Profile of SEND at Ashfield Junior School**

17% of our children are either at SENS (SEN support) or have EHCPs (Education, Health and Care Plans). All teachers expect to have children with SEND in their class and are trained and experienced in making sure that all have equal access to the curriculum.

## **Roles & Responsibilities**

All children benefit from 'Quality First Teaching'. Teachers will be responsible for:

- Planning and reviewing support for pupils with SEND on a graduated basis, in collaboration with parents, the SENDCO and, where appropriate, the pupils themselves;
- Setting high expectations for every pupil and aim to teach them the full curriculum, whatever their prior attainment;
- Planning lessons to address potential areas of difficulty to ensure that there are no barriers to every pupil achieving;
- Ensuring every pupil with SEND is able to study the full national curriculum;
- Being accountable for the progress and development of the pupils in their class;
- Being aware of the needs, outcomes sought, and support provided to any pupils with SEND they are working with.

We have high expectations of all our children. Children on our SEND register make progress which compares well with the progress made by other children in school.

The Provision for children with SEND is the responsibility of all members of staff. Jessica James, is the SEND Co-ordinator (SENDCO) and she works closely with all teaching and support staff along with the head teacher and governors to ensure quality SEND provision across the school. She can be contacted through the school office or by email at [jjames@ashfield-jun.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:jjames@ashfield-jun.cumbria.sch.uk)

It is the statutory duty of the Governing Body to ensure that the school follows its responsibilities to meet the needs of children with SEND following the requirements of the Code of Practice 2014. The Governor with particular responsibility for SEND is Sarah Layzell and she can be contacted via the school office. She meets with the SENDCO regularly to monitor SEND policy and practice.

### **Teaching and Learning**

We believe that all children enjoy learning with the rest of their class. They build meaningful and positive bonds with their peers which underpin social and emotional development as well as supporting aspirational learning.

Our ultimate aim is for all children to be working independently to achieve their potential. Children with SEND are entitled to be taught by their teacher and teachers aim to spend time each day working with all children with SEND, individually or as part of a group.

When allocating additional TA support to children, our focus is on outcomes, not hours: we aim to put in sufficient support to enable the child to reach their challenging targets, but without developing a learned dependence on an adult.

The school has a range of interventions available which are tailored to the specific and current needs of the child.

When considering an intervention, we look first at the child's profile of learning in order that we can select the intervention which is best matched to the child.

As part of this approach, we have a specialist sensory learning environment (Treetops) which supports children in acquiring basic skills through active and practical learning. Children can be in this classroom for up to five mornings per week but afternoons are then usually spent in class with their peers.

Targets for children at SENS are deliberately challenging in the attempt to close the attainment gap between the children and their peers. Interventions are often crucial in closing these gaps, so are monitored closely by both the class teacher, who monitors progress towards the targets during the intervention, and by the SENDCO who monitors overall progress after the intervention.

- Interventions vary in length and are flexible in order to address the specific and current needs of the child;
- At the end of each term, children's progress towards their targets is assessed and recorded;
- A decision is then made about the effectiveness of the support given and how to adapt provision to best meet the next targets.

The SENDCO monitors progress to identify 'what works' and identify successful strategies that can be usefully continued or developed.

### **Working with Parents and Children**

We aim to have good and informative relationships with all of our parents. If a child is experiencing difficulties, parents will be informed either at parents' meetings (autumn and spring terms) or during informal meetings to discuss their child's progress. It should not come as a surprise to a parent to learn that their child is being identified as having SEND.

Parents of pupils with SEND are encouraged to share their knowledge of their child; the headteacher and SENDCO will aim to give them the confidence that their views and contributions are valued and will be acted upon.

Parents will always be notified when the school provides their child with SEND support.

Decisions on whether the school will commission added provisions will be discussed thoroughly with the LA, parents and, when appropriate, the pupil involved.

The planning that the school implements will help parents and pupils with SEND express their needs, wishes and goals, and will:

- Focus on the pupil as an individual, not allowing their SEND to become a label;
- Be easy for pupils and their parents to understand by using clear, ordinary language and images, rather than professional jargon;
- Highlight the pupil's strengths and capabilities;
- Enable the pupil, and those who know them best, to say what they have done, what they are interested in and what outcomes they are seeking in the future;
- Tailor support to the needs of the individual;
- Bring together relevant professionals to discuss and agree together the overall approach.

The class teacher, supported by the SENDCO, will meet with pupils, and their parents at least twice in an academic year to set clear outcomes, review progress, discuss activities and support, and identify parental responsibilities.

### **Graduated approach**

Once a pupil with SEND has been identified, the school will employ a graduated approach to meet the pupil's needs by:

- Establishing a clear assessment of the pupil's needs;
- Planning, with the pupil's parents, the interventions and support to be put in place, as well as the expected impact on progress, development and behaviour, along with a clear date for review;
- Implementing the interventions, with the support of the SENDCO;
- Reviewing the effectiveness of the interventions, and making any necessary revisions.

This graduated approach cycle of '**Assess - Plan - Do - Review**' is set out as a requirement in the Code of Practice.

Once a child has been identified as needing SENS, each term an Individual Education Plan is produced and/or reviewed. The plan records specific and challenging targets for the child to achieve in a term, together with the personalised provision (which may be 1-1 or in a small group) put in place to enable the child to achieve these targets.

### **Moving to an EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan)**

If children fail to make progress, in spite of high quality, targeted support at SENS, we may agree with parents that the child should be assessed by the Local Authority for an EHC Plan.

Generally, an application for an EHC Plan is advisable if:

- The child is Looked After and therefore additionally vulnerable;
- The child has a disability which is lifelong and which means that they will always need support to learn effectively;
- The child's achievements are so far below their peers that we think it likely that the child may at some point benefit from special school provision.

Children, who we think will manage in mainstream schools, albeit with support, are less often assessed for EHC Plans. Having a diagnosis (e.g. of ASC, ADHD or dyslexia) does not mean that a child needs an EHC Plan.

If the application for an EHC Plan is successful, a member of the Local Authority will call a meeting for parents, the child and the school, together with any health or social care professionals who are involved with the family. The meeting will record the child's strengths, their dreams and aspirations as well as the barriers they face. Following the meeting, the LA will produce the EHC Plan which will record the decisions made at the meeting.

### **Emotional and Social Development**

We are aware of the close link between emotional and social development and the level of attainment of a child. Children with SEND are consulted at termly IEP reviews and their views are included as part of the termly SEND parent meeting.

We provide pastoral support in the form of nurture groups and a strong and inclusive PSHE curriculum in order to address children's social and emotional needs. All children are aware that they can seek adult support at any time with regard to issues of bullying or friendship difficulties. All staff are aware of vulnerable children and will take proactive steps to ensure that social and emotional issues are dealt with effectively, using difficulties as an opportunity to learn.

Behaviour is not classified as SEND. If a child shows consistent challenging behaviours, the class teacher will assess the child's needs, taking into account family circumstances and the child's known history of experiences. If the child's behaviour is felt to be a response to trauma or to home-based experiences (e.g. bereavement, parental separation), the school, in collaboration with the parents, would complete an Early Help Assessment and support the child through that process.

If parents and school are concerned that the child may have mental health needs, we encourage parents to ask their GP for a referral to CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service).

All children's behaviour is responded to consistently in line with our Positive Behaviour Management Policy, although adjustments are made to accommodate identified individual needs.

### **Adaptations to the Curriculum: Teaching and Learning Environment**

Ashfield Junior School is disability friendly. The school is one level, corridors are wide and we have an easy access toilet along with more specialist machinery such as a hoist and changing bench. Other adaptations to the physical environment have been made, as appropriate, to accommodate children with sensory disabilities.

If further adaptations or special equipment are necessary, we will either:

- Apply to the Local Authority for additional funding;
- Use the School SEN budget;
- Apply to charities or other organisations who are sometimes able to provide financial support.

All of our classrooms are inclusion-friendly: we aim to teach in a way that will support children with aspects of dyslexia, dyspraxia, ASC etc by ensuring classrooms are uncluttered and organised. This is good practice to support all children but is vital for those with specific sensory difficulties.

All of our children access the National Curriculum, with adaptations to support those with severe delay or learning difficulty. Some of our children are still following the Early Years curriculum or the KS1 curriculum and adaptations are made accordingly. We consciously recognise achievement and expertise in all curricular areas and at all levels of ability.

### **Access to extra-curricular activities**

All of our children have equal access to lunchtime and after school clubs which develop engagement with the wider curriculum. Where necessary, we accommodate and adapt to meet the physical and learning needs of our children. Class trips are part of our curriculum and we aim for all children to benefit from them. No child is excluded from a trip because of SEND or medical needs.

### **Staff Expertise**

All of our teachers are trained and supported in their work with children with SEND. Teachers and teaching assistants have different levels of specialist training in order to deal with different kinds of physical, emotional or developmental need. All staff have access to advice, information, resources and training to enable them to teach all children effectively. We offer training and self-help opportunities through access to school based or LA courses, provision of books or guidance towards useful websites. Local Authority support staff also provide specialist advice and staff training where appropriate.

Some support staff have expertise and training in specific areas of SEND and in specific interventions such as Reading Intervention and Phonics for spelling. Staff expertise also includes the running of nurture groups and basic counselling skills.

Additional expertise is provided by the Local Authority or the NHS. This includes access to

- Educational Psychologists and Specialist Advisory Teachers;
- Learning Disability support team;
- CAMHS counsellors or courses run through Barnardo's.

### **Transfer/Transition Arrangements**

**Transfer within school and from local infant schools** - We understand how difficult it can be for children and parents as they move into a new class or a new school and we will do what we can, according to the individual needs of the child, to make transitions between classes, as smooth as possible. This may include, for example:

- Additional meetings for the parents and child with the new teacher
- Additional visits to the classroom environment in order to familiarise children with their new environment
- Opportunities to take photographs of key people and places in order to make a transition booklet

**Transition to Secondary School** - Enhanced transition arrangements are tailored to meet individual needs.

Transition reviews for Year 6 pupils are held, where possible, in the Summer Term of Year 5 or the Autumn term of Year 6. The secondary school SENDCO is invited to annual reviews and other



review meetings. Additional transition arrangements may be made at these reviews e.g. extra visits, travel training etc.

### **Complaints**

The school works, wherever possible, in partnership with parents to ensure a collaborative approach to meeting pupils' needs. We value our relationships with parents and recognise the importance of working together to support children in their learning. All complaints are taken seriously and are heard through the school's complaints policy and procedure.

### **Cumbria's Local Offer**

The purpose of the local offer is to enable parents and young people to see more clearly what services are available in their area and how to access them. It includes provision from birth to 25, across education, health and social care. Cumbria's Local Offer is available from the school website, or through the link below.

### **Equal Opportunities**

The school is committed to providing equal opportunities for all, regardless of race, faith, gender or capability in all aspects of school. We promote self and mutual respect and a caring and nonjudgmental attitude throughout the school.

### **Monitoring and review**

The policy is reviewed on an **annual basis** by the headteacher and SENDCO in conjunction with the governing board; any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all members of staff. All members of staff are required to familiarise themselves with this policy as part of their induction programme.

The next scheduled review date for this policy is **February 2025**.

### **Sources of further information on SEND**

Cumbria County Council Children's Services

<https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrenservices/aboutus.asp>

Cumbria County Council Local Offer:

<http://localoffer.cumbria.gov.uk/kb5/cumbria/fsd/localoffer.page?familychannel=5>

Cumbria SEND IAS (Independent Advisory Service) Provides impartial information advice and support to children and young people with special educational needs and or disabilities and their parents and carers.

<https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrenservices/schoolsandlearning/ils/parentpartnership/>

Parent support and advice:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-parents-and-carers>

NHS Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service:

<https://www.cumbriapartnership.nhs.uk/our-services/mental-health/our-mental-health-services/child-adolescent-mental-health-services>