



# **St Wilfrid's R.C. College**

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## **SEND Policy**



## **Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) policy St Wilfrid's RC College**

**11<sup>th</sup> September 2023 the policy was updated**

**11<sup>th</sup> October 2023 the policy was ratified**

### **1) Aims of this SEND policy**

The aims of our special educational need and disability policy and practice in this school are:

- To make reasonable adjustments for those with a disability by taking action to increase access to the curriculum, the environment and to printed information for all.
- To ensure that children and young people with SEN engage in the activities of the school alongside pupils who do not have SEN.
- To reduce barriers to progress by embedding the principles in the National Curriculum Inclusion statement  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum>
- To use our best endeavours to secure special educational provision for pupils for whom this is required, that is "additional to and different from" that provided within the differentiated curriculum, to better respond to the four broad areas of need:
  1. Communication and interaction,
  2. Cognition and learning,
  3. Social, mental and emotional health,
  4. Sensory/physical.
- To request, monitor and respond to parent/carers' and pupils' views in order to evidence high levels of confidence and partnership.
- To ensure a high level of staff expertise to meet pupil need, through well-targeted continuing professional development.
- To support pupils with medical conditions to achieve full inclusion in all school activities by ensuring consultation with health and social care professionals in order to meet the medical needs of pupils.
- To work in cooperative and productive partnership with the Local Authority and other outside agencies, to ensure there is a multi-professional approach to meeting the needs of all vulnerable learners.

### **2) What are special educational needs (SEN) or a disability?**

At our school we use the definition for SEN and for disability from the SEND Code of Practice (2014). This states:

SEN: *A child or young person has special educational needs if he or she has a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her. A learning difficulty or disability is a **significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age**. Special educational provision means **educational or training provision that is additional to, or different from**, that made generally for others of the same age in a mainstream setting in England*

Disability: *Many children and young people who have SEN may have a disability under the Equality Act 2010 – that is ‘...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 includes sensory impairments such as those affecting sight or hearing, and long-term health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, and cancer.*

### **3) The kinds of special educational needs for which provision is made at the school (Schedule 1: point 1)**

- Children and young people with SEN have different needs, but the general presumption is that all children with SEN but without an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) are welcome to apply for a place at our school, in line with the school admissions policy. If a place is available, we will undertake to use our best endeavours, in partnership with parents, to make the provision required to meet the SEN of pupils at this school.
- For children with an EHCP, parents have the right to request a particular school and the local authority must comply with that preference and name the school or college in the EHC plan unless:
  - it would be unsuitable for the age, ability, aptitude or SEN of the child or young person, or
  - the attendance of the child or young person there would be incompatible with the efficient education of others, or the efficient use of resources.
- Before making the decision to name our school in a child's EHCP, the local authority will send the governing body a copy of the EHCP and then consider their comments very carefully before a final decision on placement is made. In addition, the local authority must also seek the agreement of school where the draft EHCP sets out any provision to be delivered on their premises that have been secured through a direct payment (personal budget).
- Parents of a child with an EHCP also have the right to seek a place at a special school if it they consider that their child's needs can be better met in specialist provision.

### **4) How does our school know if children need extra help? (SE7 1 Q1) (Schedule 1: Point 2)**

We know when pupils need help if:

- Concerns are raised by parents/carers, external agencies, teachers, or the pupil's previous school, regarding a pupil's level of progress or inclusion.
- Screening, such as that completed on entry or as a result of a concern being raised, indicates gap in knowledge and/or skills.

- Whole school tracking of attainment outcomes indicates lack of expected levels of progress.
- Observation of the pupil indicates that they have additional needs in one or more of the four broad areas of need:
  1. Communication and interaction
  2. Cognition and learning
  3. Social, mental and emotional health
  4. Sensory/physical
- A pupil asks for help.

**5) What should a parent do if they think their child may have special educational needs? (SE7 1 Q1) (Schedule 1: Points 2 and 4)**

- If parents have concerns relating to their child's learning then please initially discuss these with your child's Head of House. This then may result in a referral to the school SENCo whose name is Mr David Jackson and whose contact details are [djackson@st-wilfrids.org](mailto:djackson@st-wilfrids.org)
- Parents may also contact the SENCo or the Headteacher directly if they feel this is more appropriate.
- All parents will be listened to. Their views and their aspirations for their child will be central to the assessment and provision that is provided by the school.

**6) How will the school support a child with SEND? (SE7 Q2) (Schedule 1: Points 2, 3, 6, 8 and 10)**

- All pupils will be provided with high quality teaching that is differentiated to meet the diverse needs of all learners.
- Pupils with a disability will be provided with reasonable adjustments (such as auxiliary aids and services) to overcome any disadvantage experienced in schools and increase their access to the taught curriculum.
- The quality of classroom teaching provided to pupils with SEND is monitored through a number of processes that includes:
  1. classroom observation by the Senior Leadership Team, external verifiers,
  2. ongoing assessment of progress made by pupils with SEND,
  3. work sampling and scrutiny of planning to ensure effective matching of work to pupil need,

4 Each half term cross-curriculum meetings where department champions attend feedback from Department meetings and take information back to department meetings. Individual children are discussed at these meetings.

5. teacher meetings with the SENCo to provide advice and guidance on meeting the needs of pupils with SEND,

6. pupil and parent feedback on the quality and effectiveness of interventions provided,

7. attendance and behaviour records.

- All pupils have individual National Curriculum targets set in line with national outcomes to ensure ambition. Parents are informed of these via the reporting system and also at events such as Parents' Evenings.
- Pupils' attainments are tracked using the whole school tracking system and those failing to make expected levels of progress are identified very quickly. These pupils are then discussed in termly progress meetings that are undertaken between the class/subject teacher and a member of the Senior Leadership team and if appropriate, the pupil themselves.
- Additional action to increase the rate of progress will be then identified and recorded that will include a review of the impact of the differentiated teaching being provided to the child, and if required, provision to the teacher of additional strategies to further support the success of the pupil.
- Where it is decided during this early discussion that special educational provision is required to support increased rates, parents will be informed that the school considers their child may require SEN support and their partnership sought in order to improve attainments.
- Action relating to SEN support will follow an assess, plan, do and review model:

1. **Assess:** Data on the pupil held by the school will be collated by the subject teacher in order to make an accurate assessment of the pupil's needs. Parents will always be invited to this early discussion to support the identification of action to improve outcomes.

2. **Plan:** If review of the action taken indicates that "additional to and different from" support will be required, then the views of all involved including the parents and the pupil will be obtained and appropriate evidence-based interventions identified, recorded and implemented by the subject teacher with advice from the SENCo.

3. **Do:** SEN support will be recorded on a plan that will identify a clear set of expected outcomes, which will include stretching and relevant academic and developmental targets (this may include for young people, targets around preparing for adulthood) that consider parents' aspirations for their child. Parents and the pupil will also be consulted on the action they can take to support attainment of the desired outcomes. This will be recorded and a date made for reviewing attainment.

4. **Review:** Progress towards these outcomes will be tracked and reviewed termly with the parents and the pupil.

- In addition, the school will involve external agencies as appropriate including health and social services, community and voluntary organisations for advice on meeting the needs of pupils with SEND and in further supporting their families.
- For a very small percentage of pupils, whose needs are significant and complex and the SEN Support required to meet their needs cannot reasonably be provided from within the school's own resources, a request will be made to the local authority to conduct an assessment of education, health and care needs. This may result in an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan being provided.

**7) How will the curriculum be matched to each child's needs? (SE7 Q3) (Schedule 1: Point 3)**

- Teachers plan using pupils' achievement levels, differentiating tasks to ensure progress for every pupil in the classroom through Everyday Excellence.
- When a pupil has been identified as having special educational needs, the curriculum and the learning environment will be further adapted by the class teacher to reduce barriers to learning and enable them to access the curriculum more easily.
- These adaptations may include strategies suggested by the SENCo and/or external specialists.
- In addition, if it is considered appropriate, pupils may be provided with specialised equipment or resources such as ICT and/or additional adult help. All actions taken by the class teacher will be recorded and shared with parents.

**8) How will parents know how their child is doing? (SE7 Q4) (Schedule 1: Point 7)**

- Attainments towards the identified outcomes will be shared with parents termly through feedback regarding SEN support reviews but also through the school reporting system and Parents' Evenings.
- Parents may also find the home-school diary a useful tool to use to communicate with school staff on a more regular basis.
- Parents are encouraged to arrange an appointment to discuss their child's progress with the Head of House, the SENCo, a member of the Senior Leadership Team at any time when they feel concerned or have information they feel they would like to share that could impact on their child's success. Please contact the school office who will arrange this appointment for you. The contact number is 0191 4569121

**9) How will parents be helped to support their child's learning? (SE7 Q4) (Schedule 1: Point 7)**

- Please look at the school website. It can be found at <https://www.st-wilfrids.org> and includes links to websites and resources that we have found useful in supporting

parents to help their child learn at home. In addition, the termly newsletter includes a section that identifies local learning opportunities.

- The subject teacher, pastoral team or SENCo may also suggest additional ways of supporting your child's learning.
- If you have ideas on support that you would like to have access to in order to further support your child's learning, please contact the SENCo who will locate information and guidance for you in this area.

#### **10) What support will there be for children overall well-being? (SE7 Q5) (Schedule 1: Point 3)**

The school offers a wide variety of pastoral support for pupils. These include:

- An evaluated Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PHSE) curriculum that aims to provide pupils with the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to enhance their emotional and social knowledge and well-being. Please visit our website to see the topics that are included within this area of the curriculum.
- Pupil and Parent voice mechanisms are in place and are monitored for effectiveness by the Governor for responsibility for this area.
- Small group evidence-led interventions to support pupil's well-being are delivered to targeted pupils and groups. These interventions aim to support improved interaction skills, emotional resilience and well-being.
- Pupils who find outside class times difficult are provided with alternative small group opportunities within the school and action is taken to develop their social interaction skills.
- The school has gained Healthy School status which evidences the work undertaken within the school to support pupils' well-being and mental health.
- Access to mental health services such as bought-in counselling services as well as close links with South Tyneside mental health support services.

#### **Personal Development for students with SEND**

Personal development – the development of knowledge and skills which equip students with the capabilities to thrive in the challenges of modern-day Britain – is important for all. However, at St Wilfrid's RC College we understand that, for students with SEND, this can be more challenging.

In order to ensure that students who leave St Wilfrid's RC College are able to confidently navigate the challenges of life in modern Britain, adaptations, additions and adjustments to the personal development (PD) curriculum are made. These are outlined below:

- One-to-one mentoring, coaching and counselling
- Small group sessions targeting specific gaps in knowledge or misconceptions



- Bespoke support from Matrix (drug and alcohol support service)
- Small group interventions designed to support student's development of life skills

**11) Pupils with medical needs (Statutory duty under the Children and Families Act) (SE7 5)**

- Pupils with medical needs will be provided with a detailed Health Care Plan, compiled in partnership with the school nurse and parents and if appropriate, the pupil themselves.
- Staff who administer and supervise medications, will complete formal training and be verified by the school nurse as being competent.
- All medicine administration procedures adhere to the LA policy and Department of Education (DfE) guidelines included within *Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions* (DfE) 2014 and identified in the school Medicine Administration Policy.

**12) What specialist services are available at the school? (SE7 Q6)**

The school has access to a range of specialist support that are identified in (6) above.

**13) What training do the staff supporting children and young people with SEND undertake? (SE7 Q7) (Schedule 1: Point 5)**

In the last two years school staff have received a range of training at three levels; awareness, enhanced and specialist.

Awareness training has been provided to all staff on:

- How to support pupils with dyslexia and literacy difficulties.
- How to support pupils on the autistic spectrum
- How to support pupils with behavioural difficulties
- How to support pupils with speech, language and communication difficulties
- How to support pupils with social, emotional and mental health issues, including the trauma informed approach
- The school has regular visits from SEN specialist teachers who provide advice to staff support the success and progress of individual pupils.
- The NHS Speech Language Therapist visits when requested to assess and plan support for targeted pupils.
- The Governor with specific responsibility for SEN has completed the SEN Governor training.

**14) How will my child be included in activities outside the classroom including school trips? (SE7 Q8) (Schedule 1: Point 3)**

- Risk assessments are carried out and procedures are put in place to enable all children to participate in all school activities.



- The school ensures it has sufficient staff expertise to ensure that no child with SEND is excluded from any school provided activity.

**15) How accessible is the school environment? (SE7 Q9) (Schedule 1: Point 3)**

Over the past 5 years the following adaptations have been made to the school environment:

- Disabled parking spot marked and located next to the school reception.
  - Ramps have replaced the steps into school to ensure the site is accessible to all.
  - Four toilets have been adapted to ensure accessibility for visitors with a disability.
  - A medical room has been provided in order to enable a safe place for insulin testing/injections.
- Our Accessibility Plan describes the actions the school has taken to increase access to the environment, the curriculum and to printed information is available via the school website.

**16) How will the school prepare/support my child when joining or transferring to a new school? (SE7 Q10) (Schedule 1: Point 12)**

A number of strategies are in place to enable effective pupils' transition. These include:

**On entry:**

- A planned introduction programme is delivered in the Summer term to support transfer for pupils starting school in September.
- Parent/carers are invited to a meeting at the school and are provided with a range of information to support them in enabling their child to settle into the school routine.
- If pupils are transferring from another setting, the previous school records will be requested immediately and a meeting set up with parents to identify and reduce any concerns.

**Transition to the next school, preparation for adulthood and independent living (Schedule 1: Point 12)**

**Primary:**

- The transition programme in place for pupils provides a number of opportunities for pupils and parents to meet staff in the new school. These opportunities are further enhanced for pupils with SEND and identified on the website.
- The annual review in Y5 for pupils with a statement of educational need or an EHCP begins the process where parents are supported to make decisions regarding secondary provision.
- Parents will be encouraged to consider options for the next phase of education and the school will involve outside agencies, as appropriate, to ensure information provided is comprehensive but accessible.
- Accompanied visits to other providers may be arranged as appropriate.

- For pupils transferring to local schools, the SENCos of both schools will meet to discuss the needs of pupils with SEN in order to ensure a smooth transition.
- Feedback from last year's pupils on the effectiveness of the transition process can be located on our website in the transition folder.
- The records of pupils who leave the school mid-phase will be transferred within five working days of the parents notifying their child has been enrolled at another school.

#### **After school:**

- The school adheres to the guidance in *Careers guidance and inspiration in schools: Statutory guidance for governing bodies, school leaders and school staff* April 2014 <http://preview.tinyurl.com/mn5muuo> This places a duty on schools to secure independent careers guidance for all Y8-13 pupils. This guidance includes information on the range of education or training options, including apprenticeships and other vocational pathways.
- Parents may like to use the website of the National Careers Service that offers information and professional advice about education, training and work to people of all ages. <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk> or examine options identified in the local offer published by the local authority which sets out details of SEN provision - including the full range of post-16 options – and support available to children and young people with SEN and disabilities to help them prepare for adulthood, including getting a job.
- Where a student has an EHCP, all reviews of that Plan from Year 9 at the latest, and onwards, will include a focus on preparing for adulthood, including employment, independent living and participation in society.

#### **How are the school's resources allocated and matched to children's special educational needs? (SE7 Q11) (Schedule 1: Point 6)**

- The school receives funding to respond to the needs of pupils with SEND from a number of sources that includes:
  1. A proportion of the funds allocated per pupil to the school to provide for their education called the Age Weighted Pupil Unit.
  2. The Notional SEN budget. This is a fund devolved to schools to support them to meet the needs of pupils with SEND.
  3. The Pupil Premium funding provides additional funding for pupils who are claiming Free School Meals, who are in the care of the local authority or whose parents are in the Armed Services.
  4. For those pupils with the most complex needs, the school may be allocated additional educational needs funding from the Local Authorities High Needs SEN Funding allocation.

- This funding is then used to provide the equipment and facilities to support pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. The range of support offered is identified within our Ordinarily Available Provision Guide.

These target the broad areas of need:

1. Cognition and learning
2. Behavioural, emotional and social
3. Communication and interaction
4. Sensory and/or physical

If parents wish to discuss the options available for their child, they are welcome to make an appointment to see the Head of House, SENCo or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

**17) How is the decision made about how much support each child will receive? (SE7 12) (Schedule 1: Point 7)**

- For pupils with SEN but without a statement of educational need/EHCP, the decision regarding the support provided will be taken at joint meetings with the SENCo, pupil and parent.
- For pupils with a statement of educational need/EHCP, this decision will be reached in agreement with parents when the EHCP is being produced or at an annual review.

**18) How will I be involved in discussions about and planning for my child's education? (SE7 Q 13) (Schedule 1: Point 7)**

This will be through:

- discussions with the Head of House, SENCo or Senior Leadership Team member,
- during parent's evenings,
- meetings with support and external agencies.

In addition, our school has a forum for parents and carers of children and young people with SEND. All are invited to attend these termly meetings to raise issues of concern and to ensure the school provision is responsive to pupil and family needs

**19) Who can I contact for further information or if I have any concerns? (SE7 Q 14) (Schedule 1: Point 9)**

If you wish to discuss your child's special educational needs or are unhappy about any issues regarding the school's response to meeting these needs please contact the following:

- Your child's Head of House,
- The SENCo,

- The Headteacher,
  - The School Governor for with responsibility for SEND is Mrs R Hurst
  - For complaints please follow the school complaints policy which is outlined on the website: <https://www.st-wilfrids.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Complaints-Policy.pdf>

**20) Support services for parents of pupils with SEN include: (Schedule 1: Point 8)**

- SENDIASS offer independent advice and support to parents and carers of all children and young people with SEND. The nearest SENDIASS can be located via <https://www.southtynesidesendiass.co.uk/>
- SENDIASS will also provide information on how to access an Independent Supporter for those parents whose children are being assessed for an EHCP. <https://www.southtynesidesendiass.co.uk/>
- For parents who are unhappy with the Local Authority or school responses to their child's SEND, parents may seek mediation from the regional mediation services. For more information, follow this link: <https://www.southtynesidesendiass.co.uk/>
- Parents and carers can also appeal to the Government's SEND tribunal if you disagree with the Local Authorities decisions about your child's special educational needs. You can also appeal to the tribunal if the school or council has discriminated against your disabled child. For more information, follow this link: <https://www.southtynesidesendiass.co.uk/>

**21) Information on where the Local Authority's Local Offer can be found. (Schedule 1: Point 11 and 13) <https://sendlocaloffer.southtyneside.gov.uk/>**

- More information on how St Wilfrid's RC College contributes to the SEND local offer, please see our Ordinarily Available Provision Guide.