



LYDGATE INFANT SCHOOL

SEND & Inclusion Policy

(July 2019)

Lydgate Infant School SEND and Inclusion

Lydgate Infant School is committed to providing an appropriate and high quality education to all children in our school. We believe that all children, including those identified as having special educational needs have a common entitlement to a broad and balanced academic and social curriculum, which is accessible to them, and to be fully included in all aspects of school life wherever possible.

We believe that all children should be equally valued in school. We will strive to eliminate prejudice and discrimination, and to develop an environment where all children can flourish and feel safe.

Lydgate Infant School is committed to inclusion. We aim to engender a sense of community and belonging, and to offer new opportunities to learners who may have experienced previous difficulties.

We recognise that pupils learn at different rates and that there are many factors affecting achievement, including ability, emotional state, age and maturity. We believe that many pupils, at some time in their school career, may experience difficulties which affect their learning, and we recognise that these may be long or short term.

At Lydgate Infant School we aim to identify these needs as they arise and provide teaching and learning contexts, which enable every child to achieve to his or her full potential.

Definition of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Children have special educational needs if they have a learning difficulty that calls for special educational provision to be made for them. Children have a learning difficulty if they:

- Have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children of the same age.
- Have a disability that prevents or hinders them from making use of educational facilities of a kind generally provided for children of the same age in schools within the area of the local education authority.

Children must not be regarded as having a learning difficulty solely because the language or form of language of their home is different from the language in which they will be taught.

This SEND policy details how this school will do its best to ensure that the necessary provision is made for any pupil who has special educational needs and those needs are made known to all who are likely to teach them. The school will use its best endeavours to ensure that teachers in the school are able to identify and provide for those pupils who have special educational needs to allowing them to join in with school life, so far as is reasonably practical and compatible with the child receiving the special educational provision and the efficient education of the pupils with whom they are educated.

The school will have regard to the **Special Educational Needs Code of Practice** when carrying out its duties toward all pupils with special educational needs and ensure that parents are notified of a decision by the school that SEN provision is being made for their child.

Partnership with parents plays a key role in enabling children and young people with SEND to achieve their potential. The school recognises that parents hold key information and have knowledge and experience to contribute to the shared view of a child's needs and the best ways of supporting them. All parents of children with special educational needs will be treated as partners and supported to play an active and valued role in their children's education.

Identification, Assessment and Provision

Provision for children with special educational needs is a matter for the school as a whole. In addition to the governing body, the school's head teacher, the SENCO and all other members of staff have important day-to-day responsibilities. *All teachers are teachers of children with special educational needs.* Teaching such children is therefore a whole school responsibility.

At the heart of the work of every primary school class is a continuous cycle of planning, teaching and assessing which takes account of the wide range of abilities, aptitudes and interests of children. The majority of children will learn and progress within these arrangements. Those children whose overall attainments or attainment in specific subjects fall significantly outside the expected range may have special educational needs.

The school will assess each child's current levels of attainment on entry in order to ensure that they build upon the pattern of learning and experience already established during the child's pre-school years. If the child already has an identified special educational need, this information may be transferred from the Early Years setting and the SENCO and the child's class teacher will use this information to

- provide starting points for the development of an appropriate curriculum.
- identify and focus attention on action to support the child within the class.
- use the assessment processes to identify any learning difficulties
- ensure ongoing observation and assessment provide regular feedback about the child's achievements and experiences to form the basis for planning the next steps of the child's learning
- involve parents in implementing a joint learning approach at home.

The identification and assessment of the special educational needs of children whose first language is not English, requires particular care. Where there is uncertainty about an individual child teachers will look carefully at all aspects of a child's performance in different subjects to establish whether the problems they have in the classroom are due to limitations in their command of the language that is used there or arise from special educational needs.

In order to help children who have special educational needs, the school will adopt a graduated response that recognises there is a continuum of special educational needs and brings increasing specialist expertise to bear on the difficulties that a child may be experiencing. The school will record the steps taken to meet the needs of individual children. The SENCO will have responsibility for ensuring that the records are kept and available as needed. If schools refer a child for a statutory assessment, they should provide the LEA with a record of their work with the child including the arrangements they have already made.

The role of the SENCO in mainstream primary schools

The SEN Coordinator (SENCO) responsibilities may include:

- overseeing the day-to-day operation of the school's SEND policy
- coordinating provision for children with special educational needs
- liaising with and advising fellow teachers
- managing learning support assistants

- overseeing the records of all children with special educational needs
- liaising with parents of children with special educational needs
- contributing to the in-service training of staff
- liaising with external agencies including the LEA's support and educational psychology services, health and social services, and voluntary bodies.

Monitoring children's progress

The school's system for observing and assessing the progress of individual children will provide information about areas where a child is not progressing satisfactorily. Under these circumstances, teachers may need to consult the SENCO to consider what else might be done. This review may lead to the conclusion that the pupil requires help over and above that which is normally available within the particular class or subject. The key test of the need for action is evidence that current rates of progress are inadequate. Adequate progress can be defined in a number of ways. It might be progress which:

- closes the attainment gap between the child and their peer
- prevents the attainment gap growing wider
- is similar to that of peers starting from the same attainment baseline, but less than that of the majority of peers
- matches or betters the child's previous rate of progress
- ensures access to the full curriculum
- demonstrates an improvement in self-help, social or personal skills
- demonstrates improvements in the child's behaviour.

In order to make progress a child may only require differentiation of the plans for the whole class. The differentiation may involve modifying learning objectives, teaching styles and access strategies.

Under these circumstances, a child's needs will be provided for within the whole class planning frameworks and individual target setting. Differentiation will be recorded in the daily planning by the class teacher. Monitoring of progress will be carried out by the class teacher and used to inform future differentiation within whole class planning. The child's progress will be reviewed at the same intervals as for the rest of the class and a decision made about whether the child is making satisfactory progress at this level of intervention.

Assessing needs

If a child does not make adequate progress compared to peers, their starting point or previous attainment this would raise concerns that they had learning difficulties. The school aims to identify if a child is not making adequate progress as early as possible, using a process of summative and formative assessments. The assessment process includes the child's learning characteristics, the learning environment, the tasks set and the teaching style. We may look at a child's emotional needs, social skills and behaviour in different situations.

Regular tracking progress meetings are held to review the progress of every child in the school. Data is analysed and tracking meetings are held that include class teachers, teaching assistants and head of year group. Information from these meetings are passed on to the appropriate member of the Senior Leadership Team and SENCO. The SENCO will then liaise with the appropriate school staff and parents to discuss their child's progress. If after consultation with parents it is decided that a child has underlying needs then he/she will be put on the SEN register and a Special Educational Needs Support Plan written to identify how the needs are to be addressed and outcomes identified.

Graduated Response

Children will have needs and requirements that may fall into at least one of the four areas defined by the SEN Code of Practice September 2014.

- Communication and interaction.
- Cognition and learning
- Social, emotional and mental health.
- Sensory and/or physical

Many children will have inter-related needs; these broad categories give an overview of the range of needs we plan for but we consider the needs of the whole child which will include not just the special needs.

High quality teaching, differentiated for individual pupils, is the first step in responding to pupils who have or may have SEN. Teachers are responsible and accountable for the progress and development of the pupils in their class, including where pupils access support from teaching assistants or specialist staff.

The graduated response is a four part cycle of assessment, planning, doing and reviewing which is recorded on the child's SEND Support Plan and provision map. This process will happen termly.

Assess

The teacher identifies pupils with learning needs in the class; this involves clearly analysing the pupil's needs using the class teacher's assessment and experience of working with the pupil, details of previous progress and attainment, comparisons with peers and national data, as well as the views and experience of parents. The pupil's views and where relevant, advice from external support services will also be considered. Any parental concerns will be recorded and compared with the school's information and assessment data on how the pupil is progressing.

Plan

Planning will involve consultation between the teacher, SENCO (where appropriate) and parents to agree longer term learning objectives and hoped for outcomes. Adjustments, interventions and support that are required will be recorded on the child's Support Plan with a clear date for review. All those working with the pupil, including support staff will be informed of their individual needs, the support that is being provided, any particular teaching strategies/approaches that are being employed and the outcomes that are being sought. To track child's long term progress and level intervention he/she will be included on the SEN register by the Inclusion Manager/SENCO.

Do

The class teacher remains responsible for working with the child on a day-to-day basis. They will retain responsibility even where the interventions may involve group or one-to-one teaching away from the main class teacher. They will work closely with teaching assistants and /or relevant specialist staff to plan and assess the impact of support and interventions and links with classroom teaching. The pupils response to the support can help identify their particular need. The impact on progress, development and or behaviour that is expected will be recorded by class teacher and other staff and summarised on the Support Plan in preparation for the termly progress review.

Review

Reviews will be undertaken in line with agreed dates. The review process will evaluate the impact of the support and interventions. It will also take account of the views of the pupil and their parents. If necessary outside assessments may be considered at the progress review with parents to inform a future cycle of response. - Advice can be sought from outside specialists at any point; to advise on early identification of SEN, where little or no progress is made over a sustained period, where the child is working at levels substantially below those of their peers. Advice is incorporated into the child's individual

planning and targets. The majority of children and young people with SEND will have their needs met within the school – effectively at ‘school level’. This cycle of assess/plan/do/review will continue if the child is deemed by all to be making progress with this additional and different intervention and their needs can be met within the school’s SEND budget. We will continue to identify the child as having special educational needs.

If the child is able to maintain good progress without the additional and different resources he or she will not be identified with special educational needs and be removed from the SEN register. However the special educational provision required to meet some children’s needs cannot reasonably be provided from within the resources available to all children. Where this is the case, we will gather all the information in the format required by the LA to request an assessment of education, health and care needs.

Referral for an Education, Health and Care Plan

An Education, Health and Care Plan(EHCP) involves consideration by the LEA, working co-operatively with parents, the child’s school and, as appropriate, other agencies, as to whether a multi-agency assessment of the child’s special educational needs is necessary. A child will be brought to the LEA’s attention as possibly requiring an assessment through a request by the child’s school, from a parent or a referral by another agency. Where the evidence presented to the LEA suggests that the child’s learning difficulties have not responded to relevant and purposeful measures taken by the school and external specialists and may call for special educational provision which cannot reasonably be provided within the resources normally available to mainstream schools, the LEA will consider the case for an EHCP. The LEA may decide that the degree of the pupil’s learning difficulty and the nature of the provision necessary to meet the child’s special educational needs is such as to require the LEA to determine the child’s special educational provision through an EHCP.

Annual review of an Educational, Health and Care Plan

All EHCP must be reviewed at least annually with the parents, the pupil, the LEA, the school and professionals involved invited to consider whether any amendments need to be made to the description of the pupil’s needs or to the special educational provision specified in the plan. The annual review should focus on what the child has achieved as well as on any difficulties that need to be resolved.

All of the elements of the policy above are undertaken with reference to the requirements of GDPR, including the adoption of SCC Primacy Notice.