

CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Part of the Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust



SEND and Inclusion Policy

For Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

WE LIVE OUR LIVES LIKE JESUS

This means we will:

- ✓ *Support everyone on their journey of faith as they deepen their personal relationship with Christ and by recognising the love of God in their lives.*
- ✓ *Promote everyone's well-being and nurture children to be confident, resilient and articulate with a self-belief that they can make a difference to their local community and wider world.*
- ✓ *Encourage everyone to achieve their personal best, enjoy school and celebrate all achievements.*
- ✓ *Celebrate our school's unique cultural diversity.*
- ✓ *Reach out to Parents, the Parish and the wider community*

Jesus is at the heart of all that we are and do together at Corpus Christi

Responsibility	Date
Scrutinised and Inspected by Governors	14 th September 2023
Member of Staff Responsible	SENDCO/Inclusion Leader
Statutory/Non- Statutory	Statutory
Date Last Reviewed	September 2023
Date of Next Review	September 2024

This policy complies with the statutory advice for schools laid out in the SEND Code of Practice 0-25 (September 2014) and has been written with reference to the following guidance and documents:

- Equality Act 2010: Advice for schools DfE (February 2013)
- SEND Code of Practice 0-25 (September 2014)
- School's SEN Information Report Regulations (2014)

Please note the SEN information report is within this document as SEND policy.

Abbreviations used:

SEND: Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

SENCO: Special Needs Co-Ordinator

ELSA: Emotional Literacy Support Assistant

EHCP: Education Health Care Plan

MABSS: Multi Agency Behaviour Support Service

CAMHS: Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service

EP: Educational Psychologist

Introduction

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) is the term used for children who may require additional support from that needed by the majority of their peers.

Therefore, this means that the provision goes beyond the differentiated approaches and learning strategies normally provided as part of high quality, personalised teaching. Children who have been identified as having SEND will have their needs assessed so that provision can be adapted to their specific requirements.

The SEN Code of Practice (2014) clearly states that 'all teachers are teachers of SEN' and all our staff are totally committed to making all of our pupils' experiences at school as happy and successful as possible.

Corpus Christi strives hard to:

- create an ethos and learning environment that is person centred and has the views and needs of the child at its heart, along with their families/carers
- have a wide and balanced curriculum which is adapted to meet individual needs
- ensure children learn and make progress according to their individual potential
- assess children using appropriate assessment tools and guidelines
- have equal access to resources, provision and interventions as needed

Our School has an Inclusion Leader/SENCO (Mrs Cope) who is responsible for the management of provision of support for identified pupils with SEND. The Inclusion Leader will coach and support teachers and other staff to enable them to provide appropriate assessment and focused provision for children in their class with SEND.

All teachers are teachers of SEND and as such, provide quality first teaching which takes account of the particular individual needs of pupils with SEN within the classroom. The steps below are taken to ensure that pupils with SEN or disabilities are given the same opportunities as all other pupils and we have an inclusive and positive learning culture.

- The needs of children and young people are at the heart of all that we do. Their views and involvement will be sought at all stages. (The SEN Code of Practice highlights the importance of children and young people participating in all decisions about their education).
- Parents/carers are key partners in the identification, planning for, support and review of their children's needs.

- All children are entitled to access a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum.
- The needs of children and young people will be assessed and reviewed regularly. Informed and challenging targets for progress will be set.
- Provision will be suitably differentiated to meet individual and diverse needs to enable all children to reach their full potential.
- All those working with children and young people with special educational needs will be trained and supported.
- Children identified as having disabilities will not be treated 'less favourably' than those without disabilities and any incident of discrimination against those with disabilities will be addressed immediately and dealt with accordingly.

Admissions Arrangements:

No child will be refused admission to school on the basis of his or her special educational need, ethnicity or language need. In line with the Equalities Act 2010, we will not discriminate against children with disabilities and we will take all reasonable steps to provide effective educational provision.

Our school is based in three buildings, all of which are accessible, however there are 2 classrooms only accessible by stairs; in this year group (Year 5 /6) there is also a ground floor classroom so that provision is available for all. In our Hall building there is a disabled toilet and also a lift to the upper floor.

Training:

All of our staff have a programme of regular professional development in the area of SEND; teachers & TAs have been trained in Dyslexia Awareness, ADHD, Language Disorders, ASD, Down Syndrome, Loss, Inclusion of all pupils in the classroom, behaviour management, to name a few. The school has a Pastoral Assistant who will deliver social and emotional interventions. Staff have received training in recognising mental health difficulties in children and promoting positive mental health. This is regularly added to as the training becomes available and in response to the needs of the pupils in our school. School also receive regular support from our school advisor at the Mental Health Support Team (MHST) as well as our Speech and Language therapist who delivers interventions to individual pupils on a weekly basis.

As a staff we have regular training and updates of conditions and medication affecting individual children (e.g.) asthma, epipen training, so that all staff are able to manage medical situations.

The new 'SEND Code of Practice' (January 2015) states that there are four main areas that cover Special Educational Needs.

These areas and their meaning are as follows:

Area of Special Educational Need	Relating to difficulties with:
<p style="text-align: center;">Communication and Interaction</p>	<p>Children may have a delay or disorder in one or more of the following areas:</p> <p>Attention / Interaction skills: May have difficulties ignoring distractions. Need reminders to keep attention. May need regular prompts to stay on task. May need individualised motivation in order to complete tasks. Difficulty attending in whole class activities. Interaction will not always be appropriate. May have peer relationship difficulties. May not be able to initiate or maintain a conversation.</p> <p>Understanding / Receptive Language: May need visual support to understand or process spoken language. May need augmented communication systems. Difficulties in processing information or instructions, leading to frequent misunderstandings. Repetition of language and some basic language needs to be used to aid their understanding.</p> <p>Speech / Expressive Language: May use simplified language and limited vocabulary. Ideas / conversations may be difficult to follow, with the need to request frequent clarification. Some immaturities in the speech sound system. Grammar / phonological awareness still fairly poor and therefore their literacy can be affected.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Cognition and Learning</p>	<p>May have difficulties with the skills needed for effective learning such as use of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • language, memory and reasoning skills • sequencing and organisational skills • an understanding of number • problem-solving and concept development skills • fine and gross motor skills

	Children may have a specific learning disability such as dyslexia, dyscalculia, dyspraxia or dysgraphia.
Social, Mental and Emotional health	<p>May have difficulties with social and emotional development which may lead to or stem from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • social isolation • behaviour difficulties • attention difficulties (ADHD) • anxiety and depression • attachment disorders • low self esteem • issues with self-image • trauma
Sensory and / or Physical	<p>May have medical or genetic conditions that lead to difficulties with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific medical conditions • Gross / fine motor skills • Visual / hearing impairment • Accessing the curriculum without adaptation • Physically accessing the building(s) or equipment. • Over sensitivity to noise / smells / light / touch / taste. • Toileting / self-care.

The school provides a graduated response to each child dependent on the level of need. These are often referred to as waves of intervention.

Wave 1 Quality first teaching through adaptation in lessons.

Wave 2 Small group support for those pupils who are achieving below age expected levels.

Wave 3 Focused, individualised programmes for pupils achieving well below age expected levels.

	Whole School Approach (1 st Quality Teaching) Wave 1 intervention	Targeted Support For Individuals or small groups Wave 2 intervention	Specialised Intervention for those with additional needs Wave 3 intervention
Teaching Approach:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Ability or setting groups -Small guided groups -Opportunity for independence and guided work -Collaborative working -ICT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Phonics groups -Fine /gross motor skill development -1:1 reading (targeted) -Targeted groups (Maths, English and Phonics) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -1:1 with an adult (e.g.) teaching assistant, teacher, SENCO
Communication and Interaction Needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Speech, Language and Communication Disorders -Autistic Spectrum Disorders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Visual resources - ICT (e.g.) iPads, PCs. -Talk partners -Drama / Role play -Differentiated work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Additional Speaking and Listening groups -Social skills groups -Social Use of Language groups -Makaton -Social stories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Speech & Language Therapy programmes -Work stations with individualised tasks working towards targets. -Individualised visual timetables -Social stories - EP assessment/consultation
Cognition and Learning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Specific Learning Difficulties -Moderate Learning Needs -Severe Learning Difficulties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Access to curriculum -Use of different approaches to teaching -Hands on learning -School trips -Good use of visual and practical learning -Supportive learning environment -Differentiated work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Group intervention for organisational skills (e.g.) Narrative Groups, mind mapping -ICT (iPads, PCs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -1:1 evidence-based intervention programmes (e.g.) Precision Teaching -Numicon -1:1 developing memory skills -1:1 scribes or readers - EP assessment/consultation
Sensory and Physical Needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Hearing Impairment -Visual Impairment -Multi-Sensory Impairment -Physical Needs -Medical Needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Whole school approach - Learning walks to review learning environment and to consider adaptations as required - After school clubs - A choice of outside spaces incorporating quiet areas; play equipment and stimulating playground markings that help children practise their learning, as well as play - A fully inclusive and differentiated class/curriculum approach according to individual needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Hand gym -Fine and gross motor skill development -Additional practise in handwriting using the whole school scheme (Kinetic letters) -Extra 1:1 / small group activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Medical Care plans regularly reviewed in conjunction with outside professionals. -1:1 therapy/care by school staff who have been trained by outside professionals.

Details of provision across the City may be found on the Portsmouth Local Offer website and details of what is regarded as the Ordinarily Available Provision (OAP).

Frequently Asked Questions

How does Corpus Christi know if children need extra help?

At Corpus Christi children are identified as having SEN through a variety of ways including the following: -

- Child performing below age expected levels
- Against starting points and national age-related expectations
- Concerns raised by parent
- Concerns raised by teacher for example behaviour or self-esteem is affecting performance
- Liaison with external agencies
- Through discussions at regular pupil progress meetings between the Head teacher, Curriculum Leaders, class teacher and Inclusion Leader
- Liaison from previous school
- Health diagnosis through paediatrician/doctor

As a school we measure children's progress in learning against National and age-related expectations. The class teacher continually assesses each child and notes areas where they are improving and where further support is needed. As a school, we track children's progress from entry at Year R through to Year 6, using a variety of different methods including age related expectations outline in the new National Curriculum. Children who are not making expected progress are picked up through Progress Review meetings with the Class teacher and the Senior Leadership Team. In this meeting a discussion takes place concerning why individual children are not progressing at the expected rate or above, and what further support or intervention can be given to aid their progression.

What should I do if I think my child may have special educational needs?

Talk to us - firstly contact your child's class teacher. If you require more information, contact our Inclusion Leader or the Head teacher. We pride ourselves on building positive relationships with parents. Our staff are committed to building relations with all our parents, so please come and talk to us, if you have a concern.

How will Corpus Christi staff support my child?

Our Inclusion Leader oversees all support and progress of any child requiring additional support across the school. The class teacher will oversee, plan and work with children with SEND in their class to ensure that progress in every area is made. There may be a Teaching Assistant (TA) working with your child either individually or as part of a group if the class teacher sees this as necessary. The regularity of these sessions will be explained to parents when the support starts.

How will the curriculum be matched to my child's needs?

All work within class is pitched at an appropriate level so that all children are able to access according to their specific needs. Typically, this might mean that in a lesson there would be several different levels of work set for the class, however on occasions this can be individually adapted. The benefit of this type of adaptation is that all children can access a lesson and learn at their level.

How do we know if it has had an impact?

Regular progress meetings will track that a child is making progress academically against national/age expected levels and the gap is narrowing - they are catching up to their peers or expected age levels. Intervention programmes will be evaluated to ensure that they are being effective; if little or no progress has been made, alternative interventions will be provided. Parents will be informed of their child's progress at Parent Conferences or more frequent review meetings.

How will I know how my child is doing and how will you help me to support my child's learning?

The class teacher will meet with parents at least two to three times a year in parental conferences to discuss your child's needs, support and progress. For further information, the Inclusion Leader is available to discuss support in more detail or may arrange for a review meeting to be held. You are welcome any time to make an appointment to meet with either the class teacher or Inclusion Leader and discuss how your child is getting on. We can offer advice and practical ways that you can help your child at home. We believe that your child's education should be a partnership between parents and teachers, therefore we aim to keep communication channels open and communicate regularly, especially if your child has complex needs. If your child has complex SEND they may have an Education, Health & Social Care Plan (EHC Plan), which means that a formal meeting (Annual Review) will take place to discuss your child's progress and a report will be written annually.

How will my child be able to contribute their views?

We value and celebrate each child being able to express their views on all aspects of school life. Children discuss and set their targets with their class teacher in pupil conferencing sessions. If your child has an EHC Plan, their views will be sought before any review meetings which will be held as a pupil-centred review, making the child at the heart of the meeting.

What support will there be for my child's overall well being?

We are an inclusive school; we welcome and celebrate diversity. All staff believe that children having high self-esteem is crucial to a child's well-being. We have a caring, understanding team looking after our children. The class teacher has overall responsibility for the pastoral, medical and social care of every child in their class, therefore this would be the parents' first point of contact. If further support is required, the class teacher liaises with the Inclusion Leader for advice and guidance. This may involve working alongside outside agencies such as Health and Social Services, and/or the Multi-Agency Behaviour Support Team (MHST). The Inclusion Leader has recently completed training to become the Senior Mental Health Lead for Corpus Christi School.

What specialist services and expertise are available at, or accessed by Corpus Christi?

Our Inclusion Leader is a qualified teacher and the holder of the National SENCO accreditation. As a school we work closely with any external agencies that we feel are relevant to individual children's needs within our school including: - Behaviour Intervention (MABS/CAMHS); MHST; Health, including - GPs, school nurse, paediatricians, speech & language therapists; physiotherapists; social services including social workers and Educational Psychologists.

How the Governors involved and what are their responsibilities?

At least one of the Governors is responsible for SEND and meets regularly with the Head teacher and the Senior Leadership Team and will report to the Governors to keep all informed and up-to-date. The Governors agree priorities for spending within the SEND budget with the overall aim that all children receive the support they need in order to make progress. The SEN governor(s) also meet regularly with the Inclusion Lead to discuss the needs and provision, and to conduct learning walks to experience first-hand the learning environment and provision currently offered to our SEND pupils.

How will my child be included in activities outside the classroom including school trips?

All children are included in all parts of the school curriculum and we aim for all children to be included on school trips. We will provide the necessary support to ensure that this is successful. A risk assessment is carried out prior to any off site activity to ensure everyone's health & safety will not be compromised. In the unlikely event that it is considered unsafe for a child to take part in an activity, then alternative activities, which will cover the same curriculum areas, will be provided in school.

How accessible is the school environment?

The lower floor of the school site is wheelchair accessible with a disabled toilet.

How will Corpus Christi prepare and support my child to join the school and then transfer to secondary school?

We encourage all new children to visit the school prior to starting when they will be shown around the school. For children with SEND we would encourage further visits to assist with the acclimatisation of the new surroundings. We write social stories with children if transition is potentially going to be difficult. When children are preparing to leave us for a new school, typically to go to secondary education, we arrange additional visits. Many of the secondary schools run a programme specifically tailored to aid transition for the more vulnerable pupils. We liaise closely with staff when receiving and transferring children to different schools ensuring all relevant paperwork is passed on and all needs are discussed. If your child has complex needs, then an EHCP review will be used as a transition meeting during which we will invite staff from both schools to attend.

How are Corpus Christi's resources allocated and matched to children's special educational needs?

We ensure that the needs of all children with SEND are met to the best of the school's ability with the funds available. We have a team of TAs who are funded from the SEN budget and deliver programmes designed to meet groups of children's needs. The budget is allocated on a needs basis.

How is the decision made about what type and how much support my child will receive?

The class teacher, alongside the Inclusion Leader and possibly outside agencies, will discuss the child's needs and what support would be appropriate. Different children will require different levels of support in order to bridge the gap to achieve age expected levels. This will be through on-going assessments and discussions with parents.

What support is there for improving behaviour, attendance and avoiding exclusion?

As a school we have a very positive approach to all types of behaviour, with a clear reward system that is followed by all staff and pupils. If a child has behavioural difficulties, an Individual Behaviour Plan is written alongside the child, parents and possibly MABS to identify the specific issues; relevant support is put in place, targets are set and reviewed. After any behaviour incident we expect the child to reflect on their behaviour with an adult. This helps to identify why the incident happened and what the child needs to do differently next time to change and improve their behaviour. Attendance of every child is monitored on a daily basis by the Attendance Officer. Lateness and absence are recorded and reported upon to the Head teacher.

What happens if my child needs to take medication at school?

School staff can administer medication that has been prescribed. Parents will need to see Louise Penney or any of the staff that work in the office to complete relevant paperwork.

Who can I contact for further information?

The class teacher is always the first point of contact. If the teacher feels it is appropriate to invite other members of staff or professionals, a meeting can be arranged.

What should you do if you feel that the School SEND Offer is not being delivered or is not meeting your child's needs?

The first point of contact would be your child's class teacher to share your concerns. You could also arrange to meet Mrs Cope, our Inclusion Leader and/or Miss Clark, the Head teacher. You can also contact the Independent Advice and Support Service (IASS) or the SEN team at Portsmouth City Council.

Who should I contact if I am considering whether my child should join Corpus Christi?

Please contact the school Admin office to arrange to meet the Head teacher, Miss Clark, or Inclusion Leader, Mrs Cope, who would willingly discuss how the school could meet your child's needs.

How is the School SEND Offer reviewed?

This offer will be reviewed annually to reflect the changing needs of the children who join and are developing in our school. We welcome and appreciate the views of parents and encourage new ideas and input if there is anything parents feel should be included.

Support for Parents of Children with SEND: Helpful links.

As well as any support we can offer in school, we would like to signpost you to other organisations/places that may be of use:

Portsmouth Local Offer: This is the Local Authority website with all the support available for children and parents in Portsmouth.

<http://portsmouthlocaloffer.org/>

Portsmouth Parent Voice: Information and participation run by parents for parents of children with additional/special needs and/or disability.

www.portsmouthparentvoice.org

Tel: 07825 185608

Portsmouth Independent Support: Provides support and advice to parents and children with SEND who are changing from a Statement to an Education Health and Care Plans.

http://www.portsmouthsendiass.info/en/Main_Page

Tel: 0300 303 2000

The Government Parent Guide to SEND (August 2014)

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

For more specific advice or local groups, please see the Local Offer (website above).

