



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Policy

Summer 2024



Brierley Primary School & Little Bears Nursery
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Nurture, Aspire, Believe, Achieve

We at Brierley Primary School are committed to making our best endeavours to meet the special educational needs of pupils and ensuring that they achieve the best possible educational and other outcomes. Every teacher is a teacher of every child, including those with SEND.

This policy complies with the statutory requirement laid out in the SEND Code of Practice 0 – 25 (2015) and has been written with reference to the following guidance and documents:

- Equality Act 2010: advice for schools DfE Feb 2013;
- SEND Code of Practice 0-25 (2015);
- School SEN Information Report Regulations (2014).

AIMS

We value all the children in our school equally and we recognise the entitlement of each child to receive the best possible education. Within a caring and mutually supportive environment we aim to:

- Build upon the strengths and achievements of the child.
- Create an environment in which all individuals are valued, have respect for one another and grow in self-esteem.
- Give equal access to all aspects of school life through academic, social and practical experiences. This will allow all children to experience success regardless of SEN, disability or any other factor that may affect their attainment. This is in so far as it is reasonably practical and compatible with the child receiving their special educational provision and the effective education of their fellow pupils.
- Ensure that effective channels of communication are sustained so that all persons including parents and carers are aware of the pupil's progress and Special Educational Provision (SEP) made for them.
- Assess children regularly so that those with SEN are identified as early as possible.
- Enable pupils with special educational needs to make the greatest progress possible.
- Work towards developing expertise in using inclusive teaching and learning strategies.

OBJECTIVES

In order to achieve our aims and to ensure that children with special educational needs achieve their full potential and make progress we will:

- Work within the guidance provided in the SEND Code of Practice 0-25 Years (2015).
- Ensure pupil participation and involvement in their learning, with increasing responsibility for their learning and behaviour as they move through the school.
- Ensure good parent and carer involvement in children's learning and development.
- Ensure that the school offers a broad, balanced and differentiated curriculum that is accessible to pupils with special educational needs and promotes high standards of attainment and achievement.
- Ensure that the learning needs of pupils with special educational needs are identified and assessed as early as possible; that outcomes of Special Educational Provision (SEP) are determined; and that their progress towards these outcomes is closely monitored.

- Ensure all teachers take responsibility for planning and meeting the learning needs of special educational needs pupils, and of deploying support staff effectively to meet children's learning needs.
- Ensure that the school liaises with special schools and outside agencies effectively to meet the needs of staff and pupils.

Identifying Special Educational Needs (exemplified in our Local Offer)

Our responsibility is to secure special educational provision for pupils for whom this is required, that is "additional to and different from" that provided within the adapted curriculum, to better respond to the four broad areas of need:

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

The purpose of identification is to work out what action the school needs to take, not to fit a pupil into a category. We identify the needs of pupils by considering the needs of the whole child, which will include not just the special educational needs of the child or young person.

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.

There are occasions when progress and attainment are affected by factors other than special educational needs. For example:

- Attendance and punctuality;
- Health and welfare;
- Using English as an Additional Language (EAL);
- Being in receipt of Pupil Premium Grant;
- Being a Looked After Child.

Where this is the case, appropriate provision will be made, but this does not automatically necessitate the child receiving Special Educational Provision (SEP).

A Graduated Approach to SEN Support

Where a pupil is identified as having SEND, Brierley Primary School staff will take action to remove barriers to learning and put effective special educational provision in place.

The school uses the Cheshire East toolkit to evidence the Graduates Approach

<https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/pdf/livewell/toolkit-for-send/january-2024/0.-ce-toolkit-for-send-updated-january-2024-full.pdf>

SEN support should arise from a four-part cycle, known as the graduated approach, through which earlier decisions and actions are revisited, refined and revised, leading to a growing understanding of the pupil's needs and of what supports the pupil in making good progress and securing good outcomes. The four stages of the cycle are:

- Assess
- Plan

- Do
- Review

The graduated approach starts at whole-school level. Teachers are continually assessing, planning, implementing and reviewing their approach to teaching all children. However, where a potential special educational need has been identified, this cyclical process becomes increasingly personalised:

Individualised assessment leads to a growing understanding of the barriers to and gaps in the pupil's learning. Continual reflection on approaches to meeting the pupil's needs leads to a growing understanding of strategies that can be used and adapted. Teachers are directly responsible and accountable for all pupils in their class(es), even when pupils are receiving support from a teaching assistant or other specialist staff, within or outside the classroom.

The school is committed to early identification in order to meet the needs of children with 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. Teachers' ongoing assessment will provide information about areas where a child is not progressing satisfactorily. These observations may be supported by formal assessments such as Baseline Assessment, Standardised Assessments, SATs or the use of pre-key stage standards targets. Teachers will then consult the SENCO to consider what else might be done – the child's learning characteristics; the learning environment, the task and the teaching style should always be considered. Progress for children will be achieved by focussing on Ordinarily Available Inclusive Practice (OAIP) through; classroom organisation, teaching materials, teaching style and adaptive teaching. The pupil may be placed on First Concerns where they may receive further targeted support within the classroom. If subsequent intervention does not lead to adequate progress, then the teacher will consult the SENCO to review the strategies that have been used. This review may lead to the conclusion that the pupil requires help that is additional to or different from that which is normally available. This would constitute Special Educational Provision (SEP) and the child would be registered as receiving SEN Support.

We seek to identify pupils making **less than expected progress** given their age and individual circumstances. This can be characterised by progress which:

- is significantly slower than that of their peers starting from the same baseline;
- fails to match or better the child's previous rate of progress;
- fails to close the attainment gap between the child and their peers;
- widens the attainment gap;
- fails to make progress with wider development or social and emotional needs;
- fails to make progress in self-help, social and personal skills.

The school will use the graduated approach as advised in the Code of Practice 0-25 Years – 'Assess, Plan, Do, Review'. This process is initiated, facilitated and overseen by the SENCO, whilst the class teacher is responsible for carrying out the process of assessing, planning, doing and reviewing. Where external agencies are involved, the SENCO will be responsible for liaising with those agencies. The SENCO will also provide advice and guidance throughout the process, and may carry out some additional assessment. The teacher and SENCO will update all records of provision and impact of that provision. The teacher will maintain the personalized plans and keep them updated.

ASSESS

The teacher and SENCO will consider all of the information gathered from within the school about the pupil's progress, alongside national data and expectations of progress. This will include formative assessment, using effective tools and early assessment materials. From this, we identify the child's current attainment, achievements and learning profile. This may involve taking advice from the SENCO, external specialists and may include the use of diagnostic and other assessments to determine the exact areas of need and strategies recommended. Where external specialists are involved directly with the pupil, parental consent will be sought first. Information may also be gathered using person-centered tools to discover what is important to the pupil and how best we can support them.

PLAN

Pupils and parents will be involved in the planning process as much as possible. Person-centered tools may be employed to facilitate this. This means that the pupil and their parents/carers are supported in the planning process to arrive at goals and plans that make them key players in the learning process. This will be used to ascertain aspirations and outcomes for the child in the short and longer term. Parents and pupils will take away a copy of the plans for the term, which will include the expected outcomes, actions and strategies and provision to be used. A review date will also be set.

DO

The strategies and interventions agreed in the plan will be implemented and progress monitored using the school's usual assessment systems, plus specific tracking of progress through any interventions. Progress may be measured through assessment scores and/or through qualitative observations.

REVIEW

The progress of the pupil will be reviewed at the end of the specified period of intervention. This review will form the basis of further assessment and planning. Plans are shared with parents termly.

The school's Local Offer can be found on the school website; This indicates the type of provision the school currently offers to pupils with SEN and disability. It is reviewed annually. The level and type of provision decided on for individual pupils is that which is required to meet the planned outcomes. The SENCO records the cost of provision made through provision mapping. The level of provision provided by the councils Local Offer can be found on Cheshire East's their website.

Statutory Assessment of SEN

If the school is unable to meet with all of the agreed provision from its existing resources, finance and staffing expertise; and the outcomes for the child are not improving despite SEN Support, then the school may request a statutory assessment from the Local Authority, which may lead to an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

The school will provide the evidence about the child's progress over time, documentation in relation to the child's SEN Support and any action taken to deal with their needs, including any resources or special arrangements in place.

This information may include:

- The child's personalised plans eg SEN Support Plan (SSP);

- Records of reviews with pupils and parents, and their outcomes;
- Extra Help or Family Help Involvement (if applicable);
- Medical information where relevant;
- National Curriculum attainment, and wider learning profile;
- Educational and other assessments, e.g. Educational Psychologist;
- Views of the parent and the child;
- Involvement of outside agencies;
- Observations of the child inside the classroom.

An EHC assessment does not always lead to the EHCP being introduced. The Local Authority (LA) must make a decision on the outcome within 20 weeks and they must communicate this decision to school, parents and student.

If the LA agrees to a Statutory Assessment, it must assess the education, health and care needs of that child. Local Authorities are responsible for ensuring there is effective co-ordination of the assessment and development process for an EHC plan. The assessment and development of the plan, in conjunction with services, students and parents, should take no longer than 20 weeks to be assessed and decided upon.

The LA must request advice and information on the child and the provision that must be put in place to meet those needs from:

- Parents/Carers;
- Child;
- School;
- Educational Psychologist;
- Health (if appropriate);
- Cheshire East Autism Team (if appropriate);
- Family support/social care (if appropriate);
- Speech and language involvement (if appropriate);
- A specialist teacher for the visually impaired or hearing impaired (if appropriate);
- Anyone else that parents/carers request.

From this information, it must then be decided whether or not to issue an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Further information can be found on the LA website www.cheshireeast.gov.uk

Annual Review of the EHC Plan

All EHC Plans must be reviewed at least annually. The SENCO initiates the process of inviting relevant people to the meeting. This will include pupils, parents and relevant professionals from within school and outside agencies. In some circumstances a representative from the LA may also attend. The review will be person (child)-centred, looking at:

- One Page Profile;
- The Child/Young Person Views;
- Our Story (Parent Views);
- Updated assessment information/advice from other agencies/professional advice (within 12 months);
- Most recent school report;
- Attendance certificate;
- Provision Map;

- Any School Focus Plans/SEN Support Plans/Personal Education Programmes;
- Transition Plans if appropriate (to high school or specialist provision).

Any amendments to the EHC Plan will be recorded. The SENCO will record the outcomes of this meeting and will ensure that it is sent to the LA.

Criteria For Exiting Special Educational Provision

A child may no longer require Special Educational Provision, where they:

- Make progress significantly quicker than that of their peers;
- Close the attainment gap between them and their peers;
- Make significant progress with wider development or social and emotional needs, such that they no longer require provision that is additional to or different from their peers;
- Make progress in self-help, social and personal skills, such that they no longer require provision that is additional to or different from their peers.

This decision would be determined at the review stage.

Supporting Pupils and Families

Cheshire East Local Authority's Local Offer can be found at www.cheshireeast.gov.uk

This policy forms part of the school's SEN Information Report.

The school is committed to working closely with parents and a number of initiatives to develop closer working relationships have been developed in the last year. Parents meet regularly with school staff and concerns and successes are shared. Parents are made aware of the Information, Cheshire East Information Advice and Support (CEIAS) formerly Parent Partnership Service, and supported to engage with external agencies.

Parents will be involved at every stage of their child's progress, through liaison with the class teacher and later the SENCO. Parents are encouraged to be involved with target setting for personalised plans. Some home activities may be provided. Parents of children with Statements/ EHC Plans will be invited to a yearly review, along with relevant support service personnel connected to the child and the pupil themselves.

Medical issues are first discussed with the parents/carer. If support is required the school nurse will be contacted. The child may then be referred for assessment through his/her GP or the school nurse. Depending on the special educational needs of the children different agencies may be involved e.g. Community Paediatrician, Occupational Therapist, Speech and Language Therapist, Health/Continence Team, Physiotherapist and Educational Psychologist.

Admissions

Pupils with special educational needs will be admitted to ANY Primary School in line with the school's admissions policy. The school is aware of the statutory requirements of the Children and Families Act 2014 and will meet the Act's requirements. The school will use their induction meetings to work closely with parents to ascertain whether a child has been identified as having, or possibly having special educational needs. In the case of a pupil joining the school from another school, ANY Primary School will seek to ascertain from parents whether the child has special education needs and will access previous records as quickly as possible. If the school is alerted to the fact that a child may have a difficulty in learning they will make their best endeavors to collect all relevant information

and plan a relevant adapted curriculum.

When a pupil transfers to another school, transfer documents, including full records of their special educational needs, will be sent to the receiving school. On transfer to secondary school the Year 6 teacher and SENCO will meet with the SENCO of the receiving school to discuss SEN records and the needs of the individual pupils. An invitation will be issued for a representative of the receiving school to attend the transition review meeting held in Year 6.

Medical Needs

The school recognises that pupils at school with medical conditions should be properly supported so that they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education. Some children with medical conditions may be disabled and where this is the case the school will comply with its duties under the Equality Act 2015.

Some may also have special educational needs (SEN), or Education, Health and Care (EHCP) plan which brings together health and social care needs, as well as their special educational provision and the SEND Code of Practice (2014) is followed.

Supporting Children's Social and Emotional Well-Being

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

- Pupil and Parent voice mechanisms are in place and are monitored for effectiveness.
- Small group evidence-led interventions to support pupil's well-being are delivered to targeted pupils and groups. These 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.
- Enhanced family support is accessed when needed.

Training to Support All Children

School staff have received a range of training at different levels; awareness, enhanced or specialist:

- Awareness training has been provided to staff on how to support pupils with:
 - Dyslexia and literacy difficulties;
 - Autism;
 - Behavioural difficulties;
 - Speech, language and communication difficulties;
 - Attachment disorder.
 - Pathological Demand Avoidance
- Supporting readers through in-house training delivered by specialist consultants;
- Supporting numeracy through in-house training delivered by specialist consultants.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Governing Body

The SEN Governor will support the Governors to fulfil their statutory obligations by ensuring:

- The Curriculum Committee receives a report at every curriculum meeting to update progress on SEN issues.

- The SEN policy is reviewed annually.
- The governors' annual report details the effectiveness of the SEN policy in the last year, any significant changes to the SEN policy, why they have been made and how they will affect SEN provision.
- The school prospectus explains how the school implements the special educational needs statutory requirements reflecting what the school has in place and provides for pupils with special educational needs.

The Headteacher

The Headteacher is the school's 'responsible person' and manages the school's special educational needs work. The Headteacher will keep the Governing Body informed about the special educational needs provision made by the school. The Headteacher will work closely with the SENCO, the Special Needs Governor and Staff to ensure the effective day-to-day operation of the school's special educational needs policy. The Headteacher and the SENCO will identify areas for development in special educational needs and contribute to the school's improvement plan.

The Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO)

The SENCO is responsible for:

- Co-ordinating SEN provision for children;
- Liaising with and advising teachers;
- Maintaining the school's SEN register and overseeing the records of all pupils with special educational needs;
- Liaising with parents of children with special educational needs;
- Liaising with external agencies including the educational psychology service and other support agencies, medical and social services and voluntary bodies;
- Consulting with the class teacher to ensure that SEN Support Plans and provision maps (if required) are written and that reviews take place.

Role of Class Teacher and Support Staff

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. Both the teaching staff and the support assistants have an integrated role in curriculum planning and in supporting the child's learning. They are fully involved in the identification, curriculum adaptations and assessment of pupils with SEN. They work together with the SENCO to formulate and review Sen Support Plans and to maintain a class SEN file that is kept in the classroom for reference by staff including supply staff and students as appropriate.

Role of the parent

- To attend discussions with the class teacher, SENCO or senior leadership team member.
- To attend parents evenings.
- To attend meetings with school and external agencies and to act on their specialist advice.

Glossary (A glossary of terms is included in the appendices of the SEND Code of Practice)

CEAT: Cheshire East Autism Team

DfE: Department for Education
EP: Educational Psychologist
LA: Local Authority
SALT: Speech and Language Therapy
SEN: Special Educational Needs
SEND: Special Educational Needs and/or Disability
SENCo: Special Educational Needs Coordinator (also written as SENCO)
SSP: SEN Support Plan
EHCP: Education, Health and Care Plan