



# Sir James Smith's Community School

*Aspiration, Ambition, Achievement*

## ***SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY POLICY 2018***

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## **Sir James Smith's Community School**

### **1. COMPLIANCE AND GENERAL STATEMENT**

This policy complies with the statutory requirement laid out in the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Code of Practice 0 – 25 Years (April 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 Years (April 2015)
- Schools SEN Information Report Regulations (2014)
- Statutory Guidance on supporting pupils at school with medical conditions (December 2015)
- Safeguarding Policy
- Accessibility Plan
- Teachers' Standards (2012)
- United Nations Convention on Rights of the Child (1991)

This Policy has been created to ensure compliance with the Department of Education's SEND Reforms, which address measures outlined in the Children and Families Act 2014. The Act includes changes to the support and services children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities will receive. These changes came into force on 1st September 2014. This policy has been created by SENDCo in liaison with the Head teacher, SEND Governor, SLT and staff, with due regard to the input of parents and pupils with SEND.

Our school mission is: 'To create and sustain a caring, learning school community of high quality, where everyone is valued for who they are and helped to become fulfilled members of society.'

#### **AIMS**

Sir James Smith's Community School has two clear aims. The school aims are:

- to provide opportunities for all pupils to engage with learning to develop and realise their full potential.
- to promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and prepare all students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life.

In compliance with the SEN Code of Practice and SEND Reforms, there is a graduated approach to the identification, provision and support of all pupils which includes a period of close monitoring and targeted provision prior to the consideration being given to place a child onto the school Record of Need (RoN). Students at this stage are monitored closely on the SEND Watch List. Should a pupil require provision that is additional and different, they are placed on the RoN under one single category, namely SEN Support. Their provision will be identified and progress monitored via Individual Provision Mapping recorded on a Summary of Need (SoN).

This policy sets out our commitment to raising the aspirations and expectations for all pupils with SEN, including those identified as more able.

### **2 – AIM (THE LONGER VIEW)**

The overarching aim of this policy is to ensure that the needs of pupils with SEND, and the barriers to their learning, are accurately identified and effectively met so that they are able to achieve well and develop well, both as individuals and as members of the community, living life with dignity and independence. (UNCRC Article 23)

## Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy – March 2018

To this end, we aim to:

- a) Assess pupils accurately, track their progress regularly and adjust provision in the light of ongoing monitoring.
- b) Ensure that lessons are stimulating, enjoyable and well differentiated to meet the needs of all pupils, including those with SEN.
- c) Ensure that teaching and learning is multi-sensory.
- d) Make sure that additional support is well targeted, using a judicious blend of in-class support and withdrawal in some exceptional cases.
- e) Use the most appropriate resources to support learning, taking into account individual learning styles and ensuring that the development of pupils' literacy skills has the highest priority.
- f) Continuously monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of our provision for all pupils, including those with SEND, to ensure that we are providing equality of educational opportunity and value for money.

Objectives:

Through the application of this policy we wish to:

- a) Ensure compliance with National SEN Policy, most currently the DfE SEND Reforms, Children and Families Act 2014 and the SEND Code of Practice 2015.
- b) Work closely with the LA in developing their Local Offer and complying with locally agreed policies and procedures.
- c) To operate a 'whole pupil, whole school' approach to the management and provision of support for SEN.
- d) Ensure all staff implements the school's SEN policy consistently – fully endorsing our belief that every teacher is a teacher of every child including those with SEN.
- e) Ensure that there is no discrimination or prejudice.
- f) Ensure all pupils have access to an appropriately differentiated learning experience
- g) Recognise, value and celebrate pupils' achievements at all levels.
- h) Work in partnership with parents/carers in supporting their child's education.
- i) Guide and support all school staff, governors and parents on SEN issues.
- j) Meet the individual needs of all children irrespective of whether they have physical, sensory, emotional, social, mental health, specific or general learning needs.
- k) Provide appropriate resources and ensure their maximum and proper use.
- l) Involve the pupil in the process of identification, assessment and provision and to ensure that the pupil is aware that his/her wishes are taken into account as part of the process and of the shared responsibility in meeting his/her educational needs.
- m) To provide an appropriately qualified Special Educational Needs & Disability Co-ordinator (SENDCo) who will oversee and work with the SEND Inclusion Policy.
- n) To provide support and advice for all staff working with pupils who have SEND.
- o) Support pupils with SEND to develop their personality, talents and abilities to the full. (UNCRC Article 23)
- p) Encourage all pupils with SEND to develop a respect for human rights, respect for parents, their own and other cultures and the environment. (UNCRC Article 29)

### **3 – ADMISSION AND INCLUSION**

All the teachers in the school are teachers of children with special educational needs. As such, Sir James Smith's Community School adopts a 'whole school approach' to special educational needs which involves all the staff adhering to a model of good practice. All staff are committed to identifying and providing for the needs of all children in a wholly inclusive environment. Inclusion is regarded as crucial to the policy, in line with that of the Local Authority.

The school operates an equal opportunities policy for children with special educational needs who are afforded the same rights as other children. This includes both those children with statements of special educational needs and those others with less significant problems.

#### **4 – IDENTIFYING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS**

A child has a learning difficulty or disability if he/she:

- has greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children of his/her age.  
and/or
- has a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of educational facilities/provision that is normally available.

In addition, we identify special educational needs within the context of the usual differentiated curriculum of the school. Pupils are identified as having SEN if they are not making progress within a curriculum that:

- a) sets suitable learning challenges
- b) responds to pupils' diverse learning needs
- c) aims to help pupils overcome potential barriers to learning

In accordance with the SEND Code of Practice 2015, four broad categories of need are identified:

- Communication and Interaction
- Cognition and Learning
- Sensory and/or Physical Needs
- Social, Mental and Emotional Health.

Whilst it is clear that the purpose of identification is to work out what action the School needs to take, it is not our purpose to fit a pupil into a category. Any categorisation serves solely to identify the needs of each individual pupil by considering the whole child, not just his/her special educational needs.

The school will always take needs that are not SEN but may impact on progress and attainment into account for example:

- Disability
- Attendance and Punctuality
- Health and Welfare
- EAL
- Being in receipt of Pupil Premium
- Being a Looked After Child (LAC) Child in Care (CiC)
- Being the child of a Serviceman/woman

**The identification of behaviour as a need is no longer an acceptable way of describing SEN and any concerns relating to a child's behaviour will be described as an underlying response to a need which the School has recognised and identified clearly.**

#### **5 – A GRADUATED APPROACH TO SEN SUPPORT AT SIR JAMES SMITH'S SCHOOL**

At Sir James Smith's School, all teachers are responsible and accountable for the progress and development of all pupils in their class including where pupils access support from specialist staff and teaching assistants.

High quality teaching, differentiated where appropriate, is the first step in responding to pupils who have SEN. 'Quality First' teaching is a priority of the school. It is regularly and rigorously monitored and

there is a focus on continual improvement of the teaching of all pupils, including those at risk of underachievement. This includes reviewing and, where necessary, improving teachers' understanding of strategies to identify and support vulnerable pupils and their knowledge of the SEND most frequently encountered. Close liaison is maintained with all members of staff by the SENDCo to ensure that pupils are only identified as having SEN if they do not make adequate progress once they have had appropriate interventions/adjustments and good quality personalised teaching.

Details of the provision on offer at Sir James Smith's School can be found in the in the SEN section of the School's Website and on the **'CARE and SUPPORT in CORNWALL' webpage at <https://www.supportincornwall.org.uk/kb5/cornwall/directory/home.page>**

#### Levels of Need

Sir James Smith's School's Graduated Response consists of three levels as follows:

##### (1) SEND Watchlist

This refers to pupils who may, for some reason, have fallen behind and require some additional input to catch-up. A pupil in this category may have one of more of the following indicators:

- Be at risk of not meeting their targets
- Currently working at a standard below national expectations and their targets will not bring them above this level
- New entrants to the school whose needs are still being assessed
- Currently have barriers to their learning e.g.
  - Their behaviour is disruptive
  - There are attendance/lateness issues
  - Concerns over their mental health
  - The family is currently experiencing challenges
  - They have EAL (English as an Additional Language)

Pupils at this level of need DO NOT form part of the School's RoN and, in line with the Code of Practice, the School ensures that everything is done at an early a stage as possible to avoid the need for SEN Support. However, if after a period of time, an individual does not catch-up, it is at this point that consideration will be given as to whether they need SEN support.

##### (2) SEN Support

Pupils are placed on the RoN at this level after assessment and consultation between the SENCO, tutor, Subject Leader and Year Director, when it is established that they have a significant learning difficulty and need provision that is additional and different.

At this point, parents/carers will be informed of the decision and the School will continue to work in partnership with them, listening to their views and those of the pupil, and involving them proactively in planning and decision making. This will take the form of regular 'Assess- Plan-Do -Review Cycle.'

#### Assessment:

- Teacher's high quality, accurate formative assessment and experience of child
- Pupil progress, attainment and behaviour
- Development & attainment in comparison to peers
- Views and experiences of parents
- The child's own views

- If relevant, assessments, views of and advice from external services.

Plan:

A plan will be drawn up by SENDCo and Year Director in consultation with parents and child. It will include:

- The outcomes agreed for the next half term
- The support and interventions to be put in place
- The expected impact on progress, development or behaviour

Do:

- The class teacher remains responsible for working with the child on a daily basis and works closely with TAs or specialist staff to plan and assess the impact of the interventions.
- The SENDCo supports the class teachers in the further assessment of the child's particular strengths and weaknesses, in problem-solving and advising on the effective implementation of support.

Review:

- Parents may be invited review discussions with the SENDCo, Year Director or Tutor and their child in order to monitor/ review the effectiveness of the support and the impact on the child's progress.
- A new plan can then be drawn up and added to the ongoing Summary of Need.

### Involving Specialists

If a child continues to make little or no progress over a sustained period, or where they continue to work at levels substantially below age expected despite SEN Support, the school will involve specialists including those from outside agencies. The views of parents/carers and the child are considered at all levels of intervention.

### (3) Education, Health and Care Plan

Pupils who need more specialist provision and whose needs cannot be wholly met at SEN Support level will be the subject of Statutory Assessment. This is completed by the SENDCO who obtains the views and information about the child from all other professionals involved in their education, health and/or care. Parents/Carers views and those of the child are obtained and will be considered in order for a recommendation for an EHCP to be made to the Local Authority. The LA then consider the application and issue an EHCP as appropriate.

There is a statutory requirement to review an EHCP annually. This review meeting is held at the school with parent, child and all professionals involved invited to attend.

In addition, pupils with an EHCP (or Statement) are subject to the half-termly Assess-Plan-Do-Review Cycle.

The SENCO is responsible for:

- a) Assessing specific needs of students with SEN, including application for statutory assessment.
- b) Managing the screening of pupils for dyslexia.
- c) Line managing the Teaching Support Staff
- d) Liaising with other schools to aid transition
- e) Ensuring all relevant information is forwarded on to new school.
- f) Day-to-day operation of the school's SEN Policy
- g) Liaising and advising class teachers and support staff – producing a statement of need.
- h) Maintaining the SEN Record of Need and the records of all pupils with SEN.
- i) Liaising with parents/carers of pupils with SEN.

- j) Liaising with external services including the Educational Psychology Service, Social Care, Early Support etc...
- k) Attending/holding review meetings for pupils with SEN including those with an EHCP.
- l) Applying for access arrangements e.g.

#### **6 - CRITERIA FOR EXITING THE SEN RECORD OF NEED**

The SENDCO has responsibility for the removal of a pupil from support on the Record of Need at Sir James Smith's School. The decision will be dependent upon appropriate progress being made towards set targets and in conjunction with appropriate teaching staff/outside agencies and parents.

#### **7 – SUPPORTING PUPILS AND FAMILIES**

• **Families of pupils with SEN are guided towards the 'CARE and SUPPORT in CORNWALL' webpage at <https://www.supportincornwall.org.uk/kb5/cornwall/directory/home.page>**

- with regard to the LA Local Offer for SEN in accordance with Regulation 51, Part 4.
- Sir James Smith's School has provided a link on the [school](#) website to information on our provision for families who have a child with a SEN and/or Disability in line with current requirements. This link includes the SEN Policy and SEN Information Report in accordance with Regulation 51, Part 3 section 69(3)(a) of the Act.
- Admission arrangements can be found on the school website.
- The school's policy on managing the medical conditions of pupils can be found on the school website.
- Transition meetings between ourselves and our primary feeder schools to discuss the needs of individual pupils with SEN take place in the summer half term and will include the passing on of all SEN record.

#### **8 – SUPPORTING PUPILS AT SIR JAMES SMITH'S WITH MEDICAL CONDITIONS**

- The school recognises that pupils at school with medical conditions should be properly supported so that they can have full access to education, including educational visits 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 2010.
- Some pupils may also have SEN and may have an EHCP which brings together health and social care needs, as well as special educational provision and the Code of Practice (2015) is followed.
- The school has a number of members of staff trained in General First Aid and, where appropriate, staff are trained in managing the medication and other treatments of pupils with medical conditions.
- The school follows guidance published by the DfE which can be found at [www.sendgateway.org.uk](http://www.sendgateway.org.uk)

#### **9 – MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF SEND**

Please refer to information given in Section 4 of this policy. The quality of provision offered to all pupils with SEND is continuously monitored through ongoing daily, weekly, half termly and annual review, on an individual and cumulative basis in conjunction with the Governors, Headteacher, SLT, teaching staff and parents in line with an active process of continual review and improvement of whole school practice.

## **10 – TRAINING AND RESOURCES**

- All professional development needs are identified through the school's appraisal system, self-evaluation and quality assurance processes and feed into the School Development Plan.
- The Headteacher oversees the professional development of all teaching staff and teaching assistants occurs during whole school training days and by attending courses. Colleagues attending courses are expected to disseminate and share relevant knowledge with other staff within the school.
- Newly appointed teaching and support staff undertake an induction meeting with the SENDCo who will explain systems and structures in place around the school's SEND provision and practice and to discuss the needs of individual pupils.
- The SENDCo regularly attends SEN network meetings in order to keep up to date with local and national developments in SEND and also supports the LA through involvement in work strands to address ongoing developments in SEND Reforms.
- Support Staff are encouraged to take an active part in all school functions/training.

## **11 – ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **11a - Role of the SEN governor/Governing Body**

There is a named SEN Governor:

The Governing body has regard to the SEN code of Practice (2015) when carrying out duties towards all pupils with SEND consequently it is their responsibility to:

- Ensure the necessary provision is made for pupils with SEND.
- Determine the school's general policy and approach to pupils with SEND in cooperation with the Headteacher and SENDCo.
- Ensure that the teachers are aware of the importance of identifying and providing for those pupils with SEND.
- Ensure that the policy and information about identification, assessment, provision, monitoring and record keeping and use of outside agencies and services are available for parents.
- Ensure that the school's progress in implementing the policy and its impact on pupils are regularly reported to the Governing Body.
- Ensure that parents are notified of a decision by the school to make SEN provision for their child.
- Ensure that pupils with SEND are included as far as possible into the activities of the school.
- Consult with the LA and the Governing bodies of other schools, when appropriate, in the interests of coordinated SEND provision in the area.

### **11b - Role of the Teaching Assistants**

Teaching Assistants and Higher Level Teaching Assistants are recruited to work within the classroom and/or with targeted groups or individuals outside the classroom as directed by the Senior Leaders and Class teachers. The learning of all pupils remain the responsibility of the class teacher at all times.

Teaching Assistants are line managed by Matt Dyson, SENDCo and Sarah Morey SENDCo Assistant. Mr Dyson is working towards the National Award for SEND Coordination

Designated Safeguarding Lead - Sandie Rundle

Designated Teacher for Looked After Children - Jennifer Adams

Designated Member of Staff responsible for PPG/LAC Funding – Michele Bacchus

Designated Member of Staff responsible for managing the School's responsibility for meeting the medical needs of pupils – Sally Mason

## **12 – STORING AND MANAGING INFORMATION**

The school complies with the current data protection and confidentiality requirements with regard information about pupils and families.

**13 – REVIEWING THE SEN POLICY**

The Policy will be reviewed annually to comply with requirements for SEND with effect from April 2015.

**14 – ACCESSIBILITY**

Please refer to the Accessibility Plan. This can be seen on the school website.

**15 – DEALING WITH COMPLAINTS**

The school’s standard complaints system applies. More information can be found on the school website.

**16 – BULLYING**

Please refer to the school’s Behaviour Policy which is available on the school website.

**Policy Agreed:**

Signed – Chair of Governors .....

Date .....

*If you would like this in a different format please contact the school*

*New Policy – March 2017  
Written by – Rachael Russell  
Reviewed by – Matt Dyson  
Reviewed – March 2018  
Ratified by Governors – March 2018  
Next review due – March 2019*