



# **Stella Maris Catholic Primary School**

## **SEN & DISABILITY POLICY**

1<sup>st</sup> September 2017  
Review 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018

This policy is written in line with the requirements of:-

Children and Families Act 2014

SEN Code of Practice 2014

SI 2014 1530 Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014

Part 3 Duties on Schools – Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators

Schedule 1 regulation 51– Information to be included in the SEN information report

Schedule 2 regulation 53 – Information to be published by a local authority in its local offer

Equality Act 2010

Schools Admissions Code, DfE 1 Feb 2012

SI 2012 1124 The School Information (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012

SI 2013 758 The School Information (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following school policies

Behaviour and anti-Bullying Policy, Equality Policy, Safeguarding Policy, Complaints Policy

This policy was developed in consultation with Staff, Governors and Parents/Carers including parents of children with and without Special Educational Needs and will be reviewed annually.

### **Definition of SEN**

A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her.

A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty if he or she:

- (a) Has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age; or
- (b) Has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions. *SEN Code of Practice (2014, p 4)*

### **Definition of disability**

Many children and young people who have SEN may also 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 provides a relatively low threshold and includes more children than many realise: 'long-term' is defined as 'a year or more' and 'substantial' is defined as 'more than minor or trivial' *SEN Code of Practice (2014, p5)*

### **1 The kinds of special educational need for which provision is made at the school**

At Stella Maris we can make provision for every kind of frequently occurring special educational need without a Statement of Special Educational Needs / Education, Health and Care Plan, for instance dyslexia, dyspraxia, speech and language needs, autism, Asperger's syndrome, physical and learning difficulties and emotional social and behavioural difficulties. There are other kinds of special educational need which do not occur as frequently and with which the school is less familiar, but we can access training and advice so that these kinds of needs can be met.

The school also currently meets the needs of pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need / Education, Health and Care plan with the following kinds of special educational need: Communication and Interaction Needs. Decisions on the admission of pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need / Education, Health and Care plan are made by the Local Authority.

The admission arrangements for pupils without a Statement of Special Educational Need / Education, Health and Care Plan do not discriminate against or disadvantage disabled children or those with Special Educational Needs.

## 2 Information about the policy for identification and assessment of pupils with SEN

At Stella Maris we monitor the progress of all pupils six times a year to review their academic progress. We also use a range of assessments with all the pupils at various points: Y1 phonics screening, Y2 phonics re-screen, speech link, language link, spelling age, reading age, CAT scores and Assertive Mentoring.

Where progress is not sufficient, even if special educational need has not been identified, we put in place extra support to enable the pupil to catch up. Examples of extra support are Fizzy, Clever Hands, Precision Teaching for Phonics and Number, Sounds Write, Write dance, MSL Handwriting Rescue, Clicker 6, Drawing and Talking, Nurture Room.

Some pupils may continue to make inadequate progress, despite high-quality teaching targeted at their areas of weakness. For these pupils, and in consultation with parents, we will use a range of assessment tools to determine the possible cause of the learning difficulty. At Stella Maris we are experienced in using the following assessment tools: Speech Link, Language Link, DST/J Dyslexia Screening, Speech & Language link testing, Language for Learning and we have access to external advisors who are able to use appropriate assessment tools accessed through LIFT meetings (Local Inclusion Forum Team), who include Speech & Language Therapist, Educational Psychologists and Specialist and Teaching Learning Service.

The purpose of this more detailed assessment is to understand what additional resources and different approaches are required to enable the pupil to make better progress. These will be shared with parents, put into a SEN support plan and reviewed regularly, and refined / revised if necessary. At this point we will have identified that the pupil has a special educational need because the school is making special educational provision for the pupil which is additional and different to what is normally available.

If the pupil is able to make good progress using this additional and different resource (but would not be able to maintain this good progress without it) we will continue to identify the pupil as having a special educational need. If the pupil is able to maintain good progress without the additional and different resources he or she will not be identified with special educational needs. When any change in identification of SEN is changed parents will be notified.

We will ensure that all teachers and support staff who work with the pupil are aware of the support to be provided and the teaching approaches to be used.

## 3 Information about the school's policies for making provision for pupils with special educational needs whether or not they have EHC Plans, including

### 3a How the school evaluates the effectiveness of its provision for such pupils

Each review of the SEN support plan will take place at Pupil Progress Meetings, six times a year and will be informed by the views of the pupil, parents and class/subject teachers and the assessment information from teachers which will show whether adequate progress is being made.

The *SEN Code of Practice (2014, 6.17)* describes inadequate progress thus:

- 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 rate of progress
- Widens the attainment gap

For pupils with or without a statement of special educational needs / Education, Health and Care Plan there will be an annual review of the provision made for the child, which will enable an evaluation of the effectiveness of the

special provision. The collation of all annual review evaluations of effectiveness will be reported to the governing body.

*3b the school's arrangements for assessing and reviewing the progress of pupils with special educational needs*

Every pupil in the school has their progress tracked six times per year. In addition to this, pupils with special educational needs may have more frequent assessments. It will be possible to see if pupils are increasing their level of skills in key areas.

If these assessments do not show adequate progress is being made the SEN support plan will be reviewed and adjusted.

*3c the school's approach to teaching pupils with special educational needs*

High quality teaching, differentiated for individual pupils, is the first step in responding to pupils who have or may have SEN. Additional intervention and support cannot compensate for a lack of good quality teaching. Schools should regularly and carefully review the quality of teaching for 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 SEN most frequently encountered *SEN Code of Practice (2014, 6.37)*

In Stella Maris the quality of teaching is currently judged to be 'Good' (Ofsted – October 2017)

We follow the Mainstream Core Standards (<http://www.kelsi.org.uk/special-education-needs/special-educational-needs/the-mainstream-core-standards>) - advice developed by Kent County Council to ensure that our teaching conforms to best practice.

In meeting the Mainstream Core Standards the school employs some additional teaching approaches, as advised by internal and external assessments: one to one support, precision teaching, mentoring, small group teaching and the use of ICT software learning packages. These are delivered by additional staff employed through the funding provided to the school as 'notional SEN funding' and in some cases, additional High Needs Funding.

*3d how the school adapts the curriculum and learning environment for pupils with special educational needs*

At Stella Maris we follow the advice in the Mainstream Core Standards on how to adapt the curriculum and the learning environment for pupils with special educational needs. We also incorporate the advice provided as a result of assessments, both internal and external, and the strategies described in the Statements of Special Educational Needs and the Education, Health and Care Plans.

As part of our requirement to keep the appropriateness of our curriculum and learning environment under review the Governors have made the following improvements as part of the school's accessibility planning; ensuring differentiated work to enable all pupils to access learning at their level, replacing muddy grass in Reception play area with artificial turf to improve and enhance outdoor learning, forest school training to make learning more accessible for all, purchasing apps for i-Pads to support pupils who find it difficult to access the curriculum, refresher training for Epipens, refresher training for positive handling, installed forced-air hand dryers to replace paper towels.

*3e additional support for learning that is available to pupils with special educational needs*

As part of our budget we receive 'notional SEN funding'. This funding is used to ensure that the quality of teaching is good in the school and that there are sufficient resources to deploy additional and different teaching for pupils requiring SEN support. The amount of support required for each pupil to make good progress will be different in each case and a full list of the interventions we can offer is on our class provision maps. In very few cases a very high

level of resource is required. The funding arrangements require schools to provide up to £6000 per year of resource for pupils with high needs, and above that amount the Local Authority should provide top up to the school, and above that amount, the school will apply to the Local Authority for High Needs Funding.

*3f how the school enables pupils with special educational needs to engage in activities of the school (including physical activities) together with children who do not have special educational needs*

All clubs, trips and activities offered to pupils at Stella Maris are available to pupils with Special Educational Needs either with or without a Statement of Special Educational Need or Education, Health and Care Plan. Where it is necessary, the school will use the resources available to it to provide additional adult support to enable the safe participation of the pupil in the activity

*3g support that is available for improving the emotional and social development of pupils with special educational needs*

At Stella Maris we understand that an important feature of the school is to enable all pupils to develop emotional resilience and social skills, both through direct teaching in PHSE, with Peer Mentors, through Assertive Mentoring, use of Playground Friends, in Circle times, through targeted intervention and indirectly with every conversation adults have with pupils throughout the day.

For some pupils with the most need for help in this area we also can provide the following - access to a counsellor, mentor time with member of Senior Leadership Team, external referral (ChYPs, Early Help, School Nursing, Specialist Teaching Service), time-out space for pupil to use when upset or agitated, Nurture room, Drawing and Talking, Emotional Check ins, Circle of Friends

Pupils in the early stages of emotional and social development because of their Special Educational Needs will be supported to enable them to develop and mature appropriately. This will usually require additional and different resources, beyond that required by pupils who do not need this support.

*4 The name and contact details of the SEN Co-ordinator*

The SENCO at Stella Maris is Mrs Clare Archibald, who is a qualified teacher and has been accredited by the National Award for SEN Co-ordination and also holds the following qualifications: BA (Hons) with QTS and CCRS.

Clare Archibald is available on 01303 252127 or [carchibald@stellamaris.kent.sch.uk](mailto:carchibald@stellamaris.kent.sch.uk)

Our named SEN Governor is Mr J Ciantar.

*5 Information about the expertise and training of staff in relation to children and young people with special educational needs and how specialist expertise will be secured*

All staff at Stella Maris have annually updated Safeguarding Training.

Some teachers and teaching assistants have had the following awareness training: Team Teach, Clever Hands, FIZZY, Supportive Behaviour Management, Dyslexia Awareness, ASD Awareness and Classroom Strategies, ADHD Awareness and Classroom Strategies, Emotional Zone and Regulation Training.

Where a training need is identified beyond this we will find a provider who is able to deliver it. Training providers we can approach are: Specialist Teaching and Learning Service, Local Specialist Provision with Outreach, Educational Psychology, Speech and Language Therapy, School Nursing, CHYPS, CHATS, Emotional and Well Being Service, School Nursing, Young Carers, Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy. The cost of training is usually covered by the notional SEN funding.

#### 6 Information about how equipment and facilities to support children and young people with special educational needs will be secured

Where external advisors recommend the use of equipment or facilities which the school does not have, we will purchase it using the notional SEN funding, or seek it by loan. For highly specialist communication equipment the school will seek the advice of the KCC Communication and Assistive Technology team.

#### 7 The arrangements for consulting parents of children with special educational needs about, and involving them in, their education

All parents of pupils at Stella Maris are invited to discuss the progress of their children on three occasions a year and receive a written report once per year along with an Assertive Mentoring report. In addition we are happy to arrange meetings outside these times. As part of our normal teaching arrangements, all pupils will access some additional teaching to help them catch-up if the progress monitoring indicates that this is necessary; this will not imply that the pupil has a Special Educational Need. All such provision will be recorded, tracked and evaluated on a Provision Map which will be shared with parents three times per year.

If following this normal provision improvements in progress are not seen, we will contact parents to discuss the use of internal or external assessments which will help us to address these needs better. From this point onwards the pupil will be identified as having special educational needs because special educational provision is being made and the parent will be invited to all planning and reviews of this provision. Parents will be actively supported to contribute to assessment, planning and review.

In addition to this, parents of pupils with a statement of SEN / Education, Health and Care Plan will be invited to contribute to and attend an annual review, which, wherever possible will also include other agencies involved with the pupil. Information will be made accessible for parents.

#### 8 The arrangements for consulting young people with special educational needs about, and involving them in, their education

When a pupil has been identified to have special educational needs because special educational provision is being made for him or her, the pupil will be consulted about and involved in the arrangements made for them as part of person-centred planning. Parents are likely to play a more significant role in the childhood years with the young person taking more responsibility and acting with greater independence in later years.

#### 9 The arrangements made by the governing body relating to the treatment of complaints from parents of pupils with special educational needs concerning the provision made at the school

The normal arrangements for the treatment of complaints at Stella Maris are used for complaints about provision made for Special Educational Needs. We encourage parents to discuss their concerns in the first instance with the Class Teacher. If further support is required the Inclusion's Coordinator or member of the Senior Leadership Team should be approached to resolve the issue before making the complaint formal to the Chair of the governing body.

If the complaint is not resolved after it has been considered by the governing body, then a disagreement resolution service or mediation service can be contracted. If it remains unresolved after this, the complainant can appeal to the First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability), if the case refers to disability discrimination, or to the Secretary of State for all other cases.

There are some circumstances, usually for children who have an Education and Health Care Plan or a Statement of SEN where there is a statutory right for parents to appeal against a decision of the Local Authority. Complaints which fall within this category cannot be investigated by the school.

10 How the governing body involves other bodies, including health and social services bodies, local authority support services and voluntary organisations, in meeting the needs of pupils with special educational needs and in supporting the families of such pupils

The governing body have engaged with the following bodies:

- Free membership of LIFT for access to specialist teaching and learning service.
- A Service Level Agreement alongside core services offered by the Educational Psychology Service.
- Access to local authority's service level agreement with Speech and Language Therapy Services / Occupational Therapy Services / Physiotherapy Services for pupil with requirement for direct therapy or advice
- Ability to make ad hoc requests for advice from Communication and Assistive Technology Team, etc
- Membership of professional networks for SENCO – eg SENCO forum, AEN Update meetings...

11 The contact details of support services for the parents of pupils with special educational needs, including those for arrangements made in accordance with clause 32 (Parent Partnership Services)

Information Advice and Support Kent (IASK) provides a free, impartial, confidential, advice, and support service, for parents of a disabled child or child with Special Educational Needs and to children and young people up to age 25 who have a Special Educational Need or disability.

Trained staff can provide impartial legally based information and support on educational matters relating to Special Educational Needs and disabilities, including health and social care. The aim is to empower parents, children and young people to fully participate in discussions and make informed choices and decisions and also to feel confident to express their views and wishes about education and future aspirations. They can be contacted on:

**HELPLINE:** 03000 41 3000

**Office:** 03000 412412

**E-mail:** [iask@kent.gov.uk](mailto:iask@kent.gov.uk)

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/kpps>

12 The school's arrangements for supporting pupils with special educational needs in transferring between phases of education or in preparing for adulthood and independent living

At Stella Maris we work closely with the educational settings used by the pupils before they transfer to us in order to seek the information that will make the transfer as seamless as possible. We liaise closely with local private / voluntary / independent nurseries to ensure that pupils transferring to our Reception setting have a positive and successful transition. We operate a thorough transition process where children, families and pre-school setting representatives are invited into school on numerous occasions throughout term 6.

We also contribute information to a pupils' onward destination by providing information to the next setting. We accompany parents on visits and to meetings with secondary schools, as they require and we provide information requested by secondary schools to them when our pupils transfer into Year 7.

13 Information on where the local authority's local offer is published.

The local authority's local offer is published on <http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs> and parents without internet access should make an appointment with the SENCO for support to gain the information they require.

Mrs Clare Archibald  
Inclusion's Coordinator  
1<sup>st</sup> September 2017

Approved by the GB on: .....

Next review on: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018