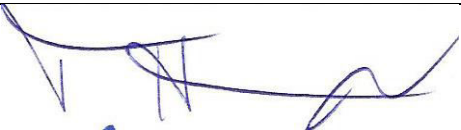



SEND policy 2019



Date adopted	10 May 19
Author	Claire Hardwidge
Review date	10 May 20
Approved by Local Governing Body:	22 May 2019
Chair of Governors: Mr Tim Howes	
Headteacher: Mr Richard Riordan	

Portishead Primary School beliefs and Values:

This Inclusion Policy has been approved by the staff and governors of Portishead Primary School. Portishead Primary School values the individuality of all children. Diversity is valued as a rich resource which supports the learning of all. We are committed to giving all our children every opportunity to achieve the highest of standards. We do this by taking account of pupils' varied life experiences and needs and educational experiences are provided which develop pupils' achievements and recognise their individuality. We offer a broad, balanced, relevant and challenging curriculum and have high expectations of all our children. The achievements, attitudes and well-being of all our children matter. This policy helps to ensure that the school promotes the individuality of all our children, irrespective of ethnicity, attainment, age, disability, gender or background.

SENCo:

The SENCo for Portishead Primary School, with responsibility for overseeing school aged children from Reception to Year 6, is Claire Hardwidge. Claire successfully completed the NASENCo award in 2016. The SENCo is a member of the school's Senior Leadership Team. The SENCo is non teaching and offers an open door policy for parents / carers should they need to contact her about any concerns or difficulties they are experiencing.

COMPLIANCE

This policy complies with the statutory requirement laid out in the SEND Code of Practice 0 – 25 (Jul 2014) 3.66 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 (Jul 2014)
- Schools SEN Information Report Regulations
- Statutory Guidance on Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions April 2014
- The National Curriculum in England Key Stage 1 and 2 framework document Sept 2013
- Safeguarding Policy
- Accessibility Plan
- Teachers Standards 2012

Aims

Portishead Primary School aims to be an inclusive school. We actively seek to remove the barriers to learning and participation that can hinder or exclude individual pupils or groups of pupils and to raise the aspirations and expectations of all learners. This means that equality of opportunity must be a reality for all our children. We make this a reality through providing a focus on outcomes for children and young people and not just on hours of provision / support and through the attention we pay to the different individuals and groups of children within our school:

- girls and boys;
- minority ethnic and faith groups;
- children who need support to learn English as an additional language (EAL);
- children with additional learning needs;
- more able children;
- children who are at risk of disaffection or exclusion;
- travellers;
- Asylum seekers.

OBJECTIVES

- To work within the guidance provided in the SEND Code of Practice, 2014.
- Ensure the school's inclusion policy is implemented consistently by all staff.
- Ensure any discrimination or prejudice is addressed and eradicated.
- Identify barriers to learning and participation, and provide appropriately to meet a diversity of needs.
- Ensure all pupils have access to an appropriate differentiated curriculum.
- Recognise, value and celebrate pupils' achievement, however small.
- Work in partnership with parents/carers in supporting their child's education.
- Guide and support all school staff, governors and parents in inclusion issues.
- To operate a "whole pupil, whole school" approach to the management and provision of support for children with additional needs and disabilities.
- To provide an SEN Coordinator (SENCo) who will work with the SEN Inclusion Policy.

IDENTIFYING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

‘A pupil has SEN where their learning difficulty or disability calls for special educational provision, namely provision different from or additional to that normally available to pupils of the same age. Making higher quality teaching normally available to the whole class is likely to mean that fewer pupils will require such support. Such improvements in whole-class provision tend to be more cost effective and sustainable.’ (SEND Code of Practice 2014, 6.15) At Portishead Primary School we recognise the importance of early identification of needs to ensure that children are able to reach their full potential. Our staff have high levels of skills, knowledge and expertise in providing first class education for children with a range of needs. This includes:

- Social, Emotional and Mental Health difficulties
- Autistic Spectrum Disorder
- Speech, Language and Communication Difficulties
- Moderate and Severe Learning Difficulties ☐ Sensory and / or physical needs

The purpose of identification is not to fit children into one of these categories but to work out what action the school needs to take in order to address a child’s particular needs. Our staff work closely with parents / carers, the child and external professionals to ensure a clear picture of the whole child, not just the special educational needs of the child. This allows the school to put the best provision in place to meet the needs of each individual child.

What is NOT SEND but may impact on progress and attainment:

- Attendance and Punctuality
- Health and Welfare
- EAL (any child with English as an additional Language)
- Being in receipt of Pupil Premium Grant
- Being a Looked After Child
- Being a child of Serviceman/woman
- Behaviour difficulties unless these are an underlying response to an additional need.

A GRADUATED APPROACH TO SEN SUPPORT

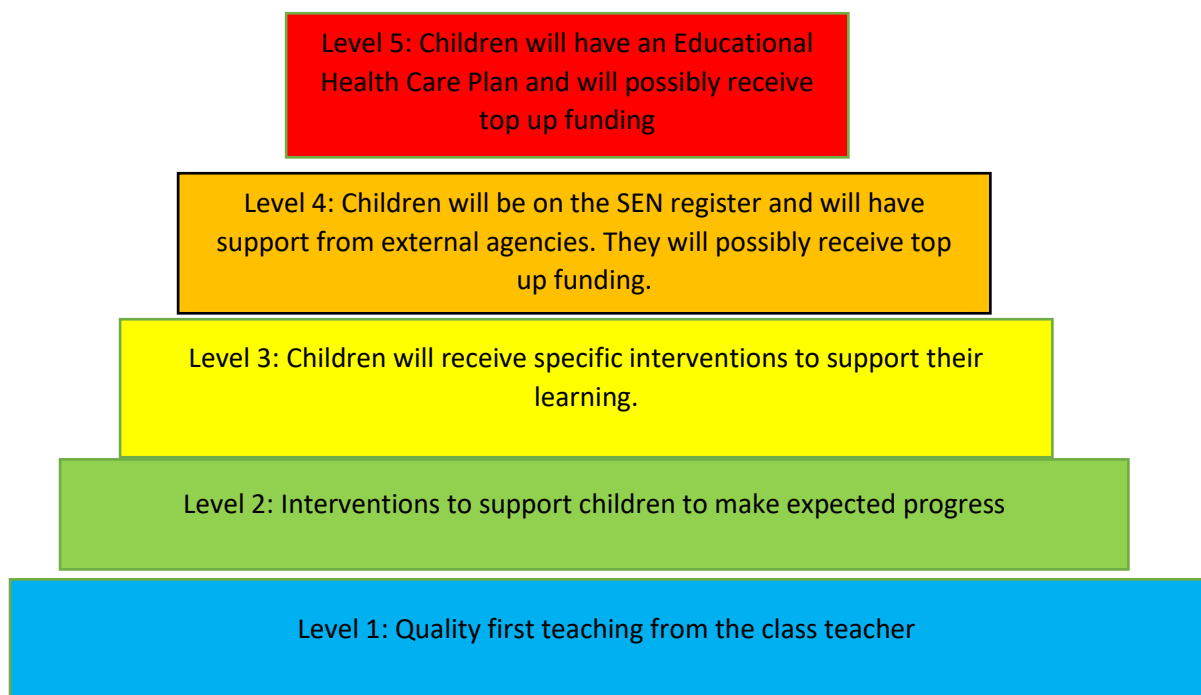
Staff at Portishead Primary School have high levels of skills, knowledge and expertise in providing first class education for all children, regardless of need. The school believes in a graduated approach to SEN. High quality teaching, differentiated for individual pupils, is the first step in responding to pupils who have or may have SEN before they are put onto the SEN register. If a child continues to have difficulties or to make inadequate progress, a referral is made to the SENCo for more specific and individual support. Whilst this is the aim, there may be children who needs present at a high level and need to be placed upon the register immediately. Any child requiring support within school from an external agency will be placed upon the register as SEN Support. Parents will always be contacted and consent obtained before any referrals to external agencies are made. Parents will be informed if their child needs to be placed on the SEN register.

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. As a school we 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 support vulnerable pupils and their knowledge of the SEN most frequently encountered. As a school we firmly believe that additional intervention and support cannot compensate for a lack of good quality teaching.

The decision to make special educational provision is made by the SENCo. The teacher and SENCo consider all the information gathered from within the school about the pupil's progress, alongside national data and expectations of progress. This will include high quality and accurate formative assessment, using effective tools and early assessment materials. For children with higher levels of need, the school works closely with external agencies and professionals through regular meetings and reports. We encourage parents and, where appropriate, children to contribute to these meetings as we believe it is important to gather a picture of the child as a whole. Parents / carers and children, where the child has a higher level of need, are invited to provision meetings at least 3 times a year where targets can be reviewed and new targets set. We value the contribution of parents / carers at these meetings and believe that they help to provide a more holistic support for the child.

MANAGING PUPILS NEEDS ON THE SEN REGISTER

There is now a single category of support, SEN SUPPORT, replacing the old School Action and School Action+ categories. In order to ensure that the school are effectively managing a graduated response, a level system has been put into place as illustrated by the pyramid below:



Children on the register are recorded as SEN SUPPORT with the interventions that support them throughout the year. This allows the school to continue to monitor the numbers of children requiring additional support from external agencies and the number supported in school. It also helps to identify trends in need which may be able to be addressed without the need for SEN support.

Teacher's who identify children who are not making progress or who may have additional needs are required to keep accurate records, including any assessments

Using a clear assess-plan-do-review approach, children who continue to make inadequate progress are referred for support at level 3. This support is individual, responsive and tailored to meet the needs of the individual child or children.

Whilst there are some interventions such as Reading partners and 1st class @ numbers which are regularly used to support children, other interventions are responsive to the needs of the child and specifically managed to meet those needs. These interventions are given agreed timings and are reviewed halfway through by the teacher and the intervention teacher / TA to ensure that the intervention is effective and working in class. If not, the intervention is adapted or alternative provision sought. The person delivering the Intervention is responsible for maintaining and updating the records / plan for the intervention in collaboration with the class teacher and the intervention manager. The class teacher continues to hold responsibility for evidencing progress according to the outcomes described in the plan. Information received from intervention tutors feeds in to pupil progress meetings and discussions with parents. If the school identifies we are unable to meet the needs of a pupil through our own provision arrangements, a referral to an external agency will be considered. Again this involves discussion between the class teacher and the SENCo and, where appropriate, parents / carers, the child and other adults who have worked with the child. Evidence from school based interventions will be considered as the basis for seeking further support. The SENCo is responsible for engaging additional support / specialist services. Many of these services are paid for by the Local Authority, where this is not the case, money from the SEN budget will be used, where appropriate, or discussions held with the Local Authority re: funding. The SENCo is also responsible for applying for and managing additional or 'Top-Up Funding' for those children with very high levels of need. This is done once a year using information gathered by the teacher, parents / carers, additional staff who have worked with the child and external / specialist agencies working or who have worked with the child. Parents are informed of the outcome and how this support will be used in school.

For further information, please see the Local Authority's Local Offer:

<http://www.nsomersetcsd.org.uk/kb5/northsomerset/fsd/family.page?familychannel=5000>

The SEN register is regularly reviewed (a minimum of 3 times a year) and children no longer requiring additional support will be removed from the register. It is important to us as a school that the SEN register reflects the level of need within the school and that children do not remain on the register if they no longer have additional needs. Once a child has been taken off of the register they can be put back on at any time if their needs change.

SUPPORTING PUPILS AND FAMILIES

Portishead Primary school values the contribution and support from parents / carers and recognises the importance of working with parent / carers to support a child with additional needs. The school website has a detailed SEN section which is regularly updated. The school SEN information report can be found here along with links to the Local Authority local offer which will help to signpost parents / carers. Portishead Primary School accept admissions throughout the year dependent on numbers on roll. Children with Statements / EHC plans are considered in collaboration with the Local Authority SEN team. For full details on the admissions process, please see the school website or contact the school direct. www.portisheadprimary.co.uk

We regularly work with a variety of external agencies including: Community Paediatrics, CAMHS, VLS service, MAPS, Social Care, Disabled Children's Team, the Voyage Learning Campus, PSCOs and the local Police force. This allows us to ensure that we are able to provide or to signpost the best possible support for children and families.

TRANSITION AND EXAMS

The Head in liaison with the SENCo is responsible for access arrangements for exams and assessments. In collaboration with external agencies, children requiring additional support are identified early and the appropriate access arrangements made including: extra time, use of a parenthesis, larger print exam materials and readers.

We know that a good transition between the stages of a child's education helps them to feel safe and to continue to progress. We plan carefully for:

- School entry from home or Nursery
- Movement between key stages and between classes
- Movement to Secondary Schools
- Movement between primary schools for children who enter or leave at different times.

The school works closely with previous schools and future schools to ensure that transitions between providers are as smooth as possible. Transition is personalised to meet the needs of individual children but may include: extra visits, shared provision or additional meetings including parents / carers and children. Transition within school is also considered and some children will have additional transition arrangements for movement between year groups or key stages. Parents are involved in this process which also helps us to identify needs for holidays and extended periods of absence from school. These programmes are personalised to meet the needs of the children and families.

SUPPORTING PUPILS AT SCHOOL WITH MEDICAL CONDITIONS

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 2010. Some children may also have special educational needs (SEN) and may have a statement, or Education Health and Care plan (EHC) which brings together health and social care needs as well as their special education provision. For more information, please see the school's policy on supporting pupils with medical conditions which can be found on the school website.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION SEND

Monitoring and evaluation of SEND practices and provision is taken very seriously at Portishead Primary School and forms part of the school's main Monitoring and Evaluation Cycle which takes place 3 times a year. In addition, both SEN and Intervention are monitored independently 3 times a year through observations, learning walks, parent, pupil and staff views, scrutiny of planning and work. Findings are fed back to staff with future outcomes identified. Data is also closely scrutinised by both the SENCo to ensure that SEN learners are making good progress and that interventions are providing good results. As part of the school's Assess-Plan-Do-Review approach, the effectiveness of interventions is continually adapted and updated to ensure the needs of the children are met. Provision is flexible to allow the results of these evaluations to have an impact. Reports are produced at least annually and shared with the SLT and Governors. This promotes an active process of continual review and improvement of provision and ensures that we are consistently providing high quality provision to all our pupils.

TRAINING AND RESOURCES

In order to maintain and develop the quality of teaching and provision to respond to the strengths and needs of all pupils, all staff undertake regular training and development. This includes weekly staff meetings with internal and external trainers, attendance on network and cluster meetings and training outside of school provided by highly qualified trainers. The SENCo maintains a log of the training attended by staff and is responsible for arranging or providing specific training for any member of staff who needs it. This includes support staff as well as teachers. Training needs are identified through staff questionnaires, appraisals and through discussions with staff. This is an ongoing process which is responsive to the needs of staff who can ask for support and training at anytime. Training is funded through either the SEN budget or the designated CPD budget.

All new members of staff undertake induction on taking up a post and this includes explanation of the systems and structures in place around the school's SEND provision and practice. If appropriate, this will include a meeting with the SENCo to discuss individual children. All staff, at the start of the new school year, meet with the SENCo to discuss any children with additional needs in the class. Through meetings and questionnaires, additional resources that are needed are identified and purchased using the designated SEN budget. Resources suggested by external agencies and professionals are, within reason, also purchased through this budget.

The SENCo is a member of the SENCo network and attends meetings, which take place a minimum of three times a year, in order to keep up to date with local and national updates in SEND. The SENCo also attends regular training provided by the LA in order to ensure skills and knowledge are up to date and relevant.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The SEN Governor is Angela Cook who is also responsible for safeguarding. Angela meets regularly with the SENCo and has contributed to the development of both the School Information report and this policy. She is responsible for ensuring that SEN provision is effective and adhering to relevant legal policies and practices.

The SENCo is the line manager for all Learning Support Assistants (LSAs) and Teaching Assistants (TAs) and manages the deployment and day to day running of this team. Support staff play a vital role in supporting children with SEN and often have a good idea of the child's strengths and weaknesses. Many support staff also work closely with parents on a daily basis allowing good home-school links to take place. Teachers are responsible for planning for and directing these staff on a day to day basis. The SENCo is also responsible for managing the schools responsibility for meeting the medical needs of pupils including: personal care plans, healthcare plans, identifying and addressing staff training needs and liaising with medical professionals.

STORING AND MANAGING INFORMATION

The school undertakes to ensure the security of personal data to prevent unauthorised individuals and staff from gaining access to personal information.

- The school building is fully alarmed whenever unoccupied, the alarms being set by the Site Manager, Caretaker or Main Key holder (Vanguard Security).
- During school hours external gates are locked and access to the building is only through the security door at reception.
- All personal data on paper is kept in the Admin or Headteacher's office in filing cabinets. The office doors are lockable when staff are not in them.
- Personal data on the computer can be accessed only by authorised personnel using individual passwords. Passwords are changed regularly. Back- up tapes are stored in the safe to reduce the risk from fire, theft or other damage.

In addition, SEN records are kept locked securely in a filing cabinet in the SENCo office. All staff use encrypted flash drives to protect child information stored on them. When a child leaves the school, all SEN information is passed on, securely, to the next school, nothing is kept at Portishead Primary. For more information please see the school's data protection policy.

ACCESSIBILITY

Portishead Primary school is on two levels with several disabled access toilets, wide corridors a lift and doorways allowing easy access for anyone in a wheelchair. For further information on accessibility, please see the school's accessibility policy.

Through regular training and high quality teaching, barriers to learning are quickly removed and identified. When children with potential access difficulties start school, the SENCO and teachers work closely with external agencies to ensure appropriate training, modifications to the environment and provision is in place to support that child. Delivery of information to both parents and children is adapted, as necessary, on an individual basis. The school is developing a positive discrimination approach to all children including the use of personalised learning packs, increased visual and non verbal information, including visual timetables and instructions, and modifications to the classroom environment. Parents / carers are also able to access written information through alternative means if requested.

DEALING WITH COMPLAINTS

We have policies in place that aim to resolve problems swiftly, fully and efficiently. For further information please see our complaints policy and the section on the website. If parents / carers of children with SEN are not satisfied that the school has resolved their complaint they can contact Anthony Webster, the SEN officer for the school (Anthony.webster@n-somerset.gov.uk, 01275 888 299) or contact a member of the SEN team at the Town Hall by calling 01934 888888. Supportive parents can also provide support if parents / carers feel the complaint has not been resolved. They can be contacted on 0117 989 7725.

BULLYING

The school has a detailed Anti Bullying policy which can be found on the website. This details the schools approach and response to bullying. As a school we do not discriminate between any type of bullying and bullying of a child due to SEN or disability will be treated in the same way as the bullying of a child without SEN or disability. The school holds an anti bullying week once a year involving parents/carers to raise awareness of the issues surrounding bullying and the school's approach to tackling the issue.

The school curriculum through e-safety, circle time, citizenship and individual lessons promotes inclusion and addresses the specific needs of some children across the school. All accusations of bullying are taken seriously and the school works hard, in liaison with parents / carers and external professionals, to address any issues as they arise.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, please consult the school website www.portisheadprimary.co.uk which includes a list of the policies referred to and further information relating to SEND including the SEN Information report.