



**Aston Lodge
Primary School**

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Aston Lodge Primary School

**POLICY FOR SPECIAL
EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND
DISABILITY**

To be reviewed September 2021

Introduction

At Aston Lodge Primary school, we are committed to offering an inclusive curriculum to ensure the best possible progress for all our pupils regardless of their needs or abilities.

Not all pupils with disabilities have special educational needs and not all pupils with SEN meet the definition of disability; this policy covers all of these pupils.

This SEND policy is written to comply with the 2014 Children and Families Act, the SEN Code of Practice 2015 together with the Equality Act 2010.

The 2015 Code of Practice states that: A person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her. At compulsory school age this means he or she has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others the same age, or 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. Taken from 2015 SEN Code of Practice: 0-25 years.

We recognise that pupils learn at different rates and that there are many factors that influence achievement and attainment. Many pupils, at some time in their school career, may experience difficulties which pose barriers to learning; these may be long or short term.

At Aston Lodge Primary we aim to identify these needs as they arise and provide teaching and learning contexts that enable every child to achieve to his or her full potential.

On the website there is a link to Rotherham's local offer, which shows the provision available.

The SEND Co-ordinator is Miss A. L. Burton

The Assistant SEND Co-ordinator is Mrs A. Howarth-Smith

Aims and objectives

- to identify at the earliest opportunity pupils with special educational needs and disabilities and ensure that their needs are met
- to ensure that children with special educational needs and disabilities experience success in their learning and achieve to the highest possible standard
- enable all children to participate in lessons fully and effectively to ensure that parents are informed of their child's special needs and provision and that there is effective communication and partnership between parents and school
- to value and encourage the contribution of all children to the life of the school
- to promote effective partnership and work closely with outside agencies when appropriate
- to work with the governing body to enable them to fulfil their role with regard to the SEN policy
- to ensure that all staff have access to training and advice to support quality teaching and learning for all pupils
- 23% of our children are either at SEN support or have an EHCP (Education, Health and Care plan).

Types of SEND which we currently have in the school, include children with a diagnosis as well as those with learning profiles consistent with the diagnosis:

Communication and interaction

- autism
- Speech sound disorders

Cognition and learning

- dyslexia, dyspraxia and dyscalculia, moderate learning difficulties, global developmental delay

Social, Emotional and Mental Health

- ADHD, attachment disorders, emotional difficulties, mental health difficulties

Physical and Sensory

- Hearing impaired, Visual impaired

Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs

Children with SEN are identified by one of three assessment routes, all of which are part of the overall approach to monitoring progress of all pupils:

- The progress of every child is monitored at termly pupil progress meetings. Where children are identified as not making progress in spite of quality first teaching they are discussed with the SENDCo and a plan of action is agreed.
- Class teachers are continually aware of children's learning. If they observe that a child, as recommended by the 2015 Code of Practice, is making less than expected progress, given their age and individual circumstances, they will seek to identify a cause. This can be characterised by progress which:
 - o is significantly slower than that of their peers starting from the same baseline
 - o fails to match or better the child's previous rate of progress
 - o fails to close the attainment gap between the child and their peers
- Parents sometimes ask us to look more closely at the child's learning. We take all parental requests seriously and investigate them all. Frequently, the concern can be addressed by quality first teaching or some additional support. Otherwise, the child is placed at School support on the SEN register, and will receive additional support, as compared to peers of the same age.

Working with parents and children

We aim to have good and informative relationships with all of our parents. If a child is experiencing difficulties, parents will be informed at parents evening (termly) or during an informal meeting to discuss the child's progress. An individual support plan will then be written by the class teacher and the SENDCo in order to set targets, and review progress and provision. This will be shared with parents.

Multi-Agency Working

As a school we work closely with a wide range of external support services to ensure the best possible provision is made for pupils with special education needs and disabilities. This includes regular support from LSS (Learning Support Services), Educational Psychology Service and the Me In Mind Team.

Speech and Language Therapists, Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists also play a key role in the wellbeing of our pupils. Regular multi-agency liaison meetings, with representation from Social Services, Health, and the Educational Psychology Service are held to ensure effective collaboration in identifying and making provision for vulnerable pupils.

Paperwork for children at SEN Support

Once a child has been identified as needing SEN support, the following paperwork is completed:

- Annually, a one page profile is used to record the child's strengths and interests, what they enjoy, what they find difficult and what helps them to achieve. This is completed with the child and parent alongside the class teacher and SENDCo. This information may be updated during the year.
- Termly, an individual support plan is produced and reviewed. The plan will detail:
 - The short-term SMART targets for the pupil
 - The teaching strategies to be used
 - The provision to be put in place
 - When the plan is to be reviewed
 - Success and/or exit criteria

Moving to an EHCP (Education, Health and Care plan)

If children do not make progress, in spite of high quality, targeted support at SEN support, we may apply for the child to be assessed for an EHC plan. Generally, we apply for an EHC plan if:

- The child has a disability which is lifelong and which means they will always need support to learn effectively
- The child's achievements are so far below their peers that we think it likely that the child may at some point benefit from special school provision.

Children who we think will manage in mainstream school, albeit with support, are less often assessed for EHC plans. Having a diagnosis (e.g. ASD, ADHD or dyslexia) does not mean that a child needs an EHC plan.

Teaching and Learning

We believe that all children learn best through quality first teaching in a whole class situation. Our aim is for all children to work independently, in class, to reach their potential. Children with SEN and disabilities are taught by their class teacher and may be supported by their teaching assistant, sometimes individually or as part of a group.

When allocating additional TA support to children, our focus is on outcomes, not hours: we aim to provide children with sufficient support to enable them to reach their targets, but without developing a learned dependence on an adult.

Aston Lodge primary has a range of interventions available which are listed on a provision map. When considering an intervention, we assess the child to ensure the interventions are well matched to the children. Interventions are closely monitored by the SENDCo, to ensure that the gap between the child and their peers is closing.

Access to extra-curricular activities

All our children have equal access to after school clubs which develop engagement with the wider curriculum. Where necessary, we make accommodation and adaptation to meet the physical and learning needs of our children. Class visits are part of our creative curriculum and we aim for all children to benefit from them. No child is excluded from a visit because of SEN, disability or medical needs.

Children with social, emotional and mental health needs

If the school and parents are concerned that a child may have mental health needs, we work closely with a Lead Practitioner from the Me In Mind Team. Half termly consultations are held between the Me In Mind Team and the Lead Mental Health Practitioner in the school (Miss Burton). We also support children socially and emotionally through ensuring a quality PSHE curriculum (Jigsaw), encouraging children to participate in enrichment activities and ensuring mindfulness activities are an integral part of Friday afternoon 'Golden Time.' We also work with the Educational Psychology Service, who provide us with regular advice and guidance as well as working with children.

Transition arrangements within school

At Aston Lodge primary, we ensure that transitions between classes and key stages are as smooth as possible for all our children. In terms of our SEN children, we provide extra transition, dependent upon the needs of the child. This may include:

- Additional meetings for the parents and child with the new class teacher
- Additional visits to the classroom environment for the child
- A transition booklet including photographs of key people and places in the child's new classroom

Transition to secondary school

Enhanced transition arrangements are in place for SEN children, and these can be tailored to individual needs. The SENDCo from the secondary school is invited to the annual reviews of the children in year 6, to ensure the transition is as smooth as possible.

Training

The school works with the trust to ensure that training needs are addressed. In-service training and individual professional development is arranged according to the current needs within the school. Particular support will be given to NQTs and new members of staff. In addition:

- The SENDCO attends regular network meetings to share expertise, update and revise developments in Special Needs Education.
- Termly SEN training is provided through staff meetings by the SENDCO.

- Regular training sessions are delivered to teaching assistants by the SENDCO.
- Support staff, through annual performance management and staff review meetings , are given the opportunity to extend their personal professional development.

Policy Review

Date Policy agreed: September 2020 Review date: September 2021

It may be useful to view this policy alongside:

Policy for disability equality

Inclusion policy