



# Bishop Douglass Catholic School

## SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY POLICY

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*'The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.'*

*Psalms 118:22*

### 1. Principles

Guidelines to Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice 2014 (COP) with Policy and Procedures for Special Educational Needs (SEN) and disability at Bishop Douglass School

As a Catholic school guided by the teachings of Christ, we strive as a community to successfully include those with special educational needs and disabilities and to ensure equality of opportunity.

### 2. Compliance

This policy is written to comply with the statutory requirements laid out in the COP and has been written with reference to the following guidance and documents:

- The Equality Act (2010)
- Special Educational Needs (Information) Regulations (2014)
- Statutory guidance on supporting pupils at schools with medical conditions (2014)
- Teacher standards (2012)

### 3. Context

The purpose of the Code of Practice (2014) is to give statutory guidance that all schools **must** have regard to on the discharge of responsibilities related to special educational needs and disability.

The Code sets out guidance on policies and procedures aimed at enabling pupils with special educational needs and disabled children and young people (aged from 16 to 25) to reach their full potential; to be included in their school communities and make a successful transition to adulthood. For the vast majority of children and young people, their mainstream setting will meet all their special educational needs. Some children will require additional help from SEN services or other agencies external to the school. A very small minority of children will have SEN of a severity or complexity that requires the Local Authority (LA) to produce an Education Health and Care plan (EHC plan) detailing the special educational provision the learning difficulties require.

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. Children and young people with disabilities e.g. asthma do not necessarily have SEN. However, where a disabled child or

young person requires special educational provision they will be covered by the SEN definition (see below 4).

#### **4. Special Educational Provision explained:**

Some children and young people need educational provision that is additional to or different from what is expected from teachers in their day to day pedagogy i.e. high-quality teaching that is differentiated and personalised. High-quality teaching should be sufficient to meet the individual needs of the majority of children and young people. Any necessary additional provision is regarded as special educational provision under Section 21 of the Children and Families Act 2014.

#### **5. Definition of Special Educational Needs (SEN)**

Children and young persons have a learning difficulty if they have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of facilities of a kind, generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions. A disability is defined in the Equality Act of 2010 as “a physical or mental impairment which has a long-term and substantial adverse effect on the ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities”

Children at Bishop Douglass will not be regarded as having a learning difficulty, solely because the language or form of language of their home, is different from the language in which they will be taught.

#### **6. The Fundamental Principles**

At Bishop Douglass School, we strive to:

- Ensure ‘achievement for all’. Enable every child to be the best they can be regardless of background, challenge or need.
- Foster higher expectations.
- Identify pupils with SEN.
- Include pupils with SEN in our mainstream school so that they are not further disadvantaged, making reasonable adjustments to include pupils to the fullest extent.
- Take the views of the pupils into account.
- Involve parents in supporting their child’s education.
- Offer pupils with SEN, a broad, balanced and relevant education and facilitate their progress. This will be in keeping with the recommended graduated approach (COP 5.38); assessing through ‘quality-first teaching’ pupil needs, planning and implementing strategies and then reviewing and fine-tuning interventions, involving external expertise as needed.
- Ensure teachers act upon their responsibilities towards pupils who have SEN by assessing, recording and reviewing progress and liaising with the SENCO to ensure that progress is monitored so that intervention can be optimally fine-tuned.
- Ensure the Special Needs Coordinator (SENCO), Learning Support Teachers (LSTs) and teaching assistants (T/As) have an opportunity to meet weekly to discuss SEN pupils’ causes for concern and suggest methods and strategies to meet pupils’ needs.
- Ensure that the Governing body is updated about the progress of SEN pupils and reviews provision regularly; in particular, through the role of link governor and through the use of available data e.g. Analyse School Performance (ASP).

- Facilitate the transition of SEN learners appropriately.

## 7. Admission Arrangements

Admission arrangements for pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans are not subject to the normal admissions procedures, as places are allocated through Barnet LA. The Executive Headteacher has responsibility for ensuring that the admission policy of the school, in relation to pupils with SEN, is handled positively and sensitively and that all parents and children are made to feel welcome.

### Our Aims

- We recognise that we will need to consider the individual needs of pupils when planning our curriculum and pedagogy. We aim to provide a curriculum, which is accessible to the individual needs of our pupils and includes pupils with SEN, disabilities and the wide range of needs at Bishop Douglass School.
- We recognise that some pupils will need additional support to ensure access to the whole curriculum. We will ensure that the needs of SEN pupils are identified and assessed and we aim to provide appropriate support strategies. If additional specialist advice and support are necessary, we will contact the appropriate external agencies.
- We recognise the importance of early identification and assessment of pupils with special educational needs. We will develop practices and procedures, which will aim to ensure that all pupils' special educational needs, are identified and assessed and the delivery of the curriculum will be planned to meet their needs.
- We recognise the vital role of parents/carers in the identification, assessment and response to their pupils' special educational needs. We will work in true partnership with parents/carers, valuing their views and contributions and keeping them fully involved in their child's education.
- We are committed to effective collaboration between all agencies working with a child and a multi-disciplinary approach to meeting pupils' special educational needs. We will actively support the establishment and maintenance of close links with all agencies working with the child.
- Staff at the school are committed to ensuring that pupils with special educational needs:
  - Have access to high-quality education within a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum.
  - Benefit fully from the school's personalised approach for individual needs, including being taught by specialist staff when appropriate.
  - Are provided with a stimulating and accessible environment.
  - Have equal opportunity to achieve their full potential in all aspects of their development.
  - Are involved, along with their parents, in the identification and assessment of their needs.
  - Are included in the life of the school and have their contribution welcomed.
  - Are prepared for the challenges of life in a complex changing society.

## **8. Roles and Responsibilities**

### **8a. Role of Governing Body**

- Ensuring that the school complies with the Code of Practice (2014) and related legislation, including the general and specific duties as outlined in the Equality Act 2010.
- Ensuring that this policy and its related procedures and strategies are implemented. This will be evidenced by visits (which could be by the link Governor, members of the curriculum committee or members of the full Governing Body) and a subsequent report back to the Governing Body.
- Establishing appropriate staffing and funding arrangements.
- Considering and reporting of the effectiveness of the school's work for pupils with SEN (at least annually).
- The Governing Body delegates the role of responsible person to the Headteacher.
- Establishing the purpose and work of the SEN Governor.

### **8b. Role of the Headteacher**

- Along with the Governing Body, ensuring that the policy and its related procedures and strategies are implemented.
- Ensuring that all staff are aware of their responsibilities under the policy and are given appropriate training and support so that they can fulfil their duties.
- To ensure the school's offer as contained in the Special Educational Needs (SEN) Information Report is published on the school website and updated appropriately.

### **8c. Special Needs Coordinator (SENCO)**

The SENCO works within the following key areas of responsibility as set out in the Code of Practice (section 6.84)

- Overseeing the day-to-day operation of the school's SEN policy.
- Drawing up annually and reviewing a SEN improvement plan for the department.
- Providing information on the above to the Governing Body and Executive Headteacher.
- Liaising with and advising fellow teachers including through the compilation of the SEN register and profile booklet.
- Leading and managing the SEN team of teachers and learning support assistants.
- Coordinating provision for pupils with special educational needs and leading on the graduated approach.
- Ensuring access arrangements for examinations.
- Overseeing the records on all pupils with special educational needs.
- Overseeing liaison with parents of pupils with special educational needs and facilitating transition where appropriate.
- Contributing to the in-service training of staff and coordinating external training where appropriate.
- Liaising with external agencies.

#### **8d. Role of SEN Staff**

- Learning Support Teachers (LSTs) are specialist qualified teachers. They support and supervise the education of pupils with an EHC plan.
- Teaching Assistants (T/As) and student ambassadors (casually hired University graduates and undergraduates) provide mainly in-class support, as directed by the SENCO or Headteacher, to pupils who have EHC plans or are including in the category of SEN support. They may withdraw small groups for learning support, literacy support, behaviour support groups etc.

#### **8e. General roles for all Teaching and Support Staff**

All staff are involved in teaching and supporting pupils with SEN and must be aware of procedures for identifying, assessing and making provision for the pupils. To this end, information on pupils with SEN is published in October of each year, reviewed in May and provided in a SEN register which is confidential and available in the school shared area.

#### **9. Departmental Structure**

The designated SEN governor is Sr Frances Cullen.

The designated SENCO who is responsible for co-ordinating the day-to-day provision of education for SEN pupils is Mrs Goursaud.

#### **10. Identification of SEN, classification and the graduated approach**

On entry to Bishop Douglass, pupils undergo NFER Cognitive Ability Tests (CATs) and Reading tests. If a pupil's reading age is 3 to 4 years below their chronological age, or their CATs average score is less than 85, the pupil may after further investigation be placed on the SEN register. Parents will be contacted. Records from primary school, if available, will be scrutinised to inform intervention plans.

Any pupil who joins the school as a casual admission will be similarly tested and information from a previous school, where available, is similarly assessed.

The school follows the graduated approach and the four-part cycle of assess, plan, do, review.

Teachers and other staff will refer on to the SENCO, pupils who may have special educational needs. Teachers remain responsible and accountable for the progress and development of the students in their class, including where pupils access support from teaching assistants or specialist staff. High quality teaching, differentiated for individual students, is the first step in responding to students who have or may have SEND.

Before a student is placed on the SEN Register, teacher intervention takes place within a cycle of assess, plan, do and review. If teacher intervention does not work then there is further discussion with the SENCO, and further testing using standardised tests.

Students are identified as having SEND if they do not make adequate progress once they have had all the intervention/adjustments and high-quality personalised teaching.

The SEN register is updated and is constantly available electronically to all staff in the school shared area. Twice a year (in October & May) a snapshot of the SEN register is taken and

published in paper and electronic format for all school staff in the SEN shared area, which also carries copies of personalised plans and training resources for all staff.

The type of special needs identified in a pupil will enable categorisation under four main headings: viz Communication and interaction, Cognition and learning, Social, emotional and mental health difficulties; Sensory and/or physical needs.

However, it is recognised that individual children often have needs that cut across all these areas and their needs may change over time and their progress must be kept under review.

Appropriate interventions to address literacy issues, dyslexia support, autism and other learning difficulties will be put in place and their effectiveness will be tracked via assessment and termly grid (progress and attainment) grades.

Pupils' names are removed from the SEN register when they have made relevant progress in line with their peers and they no longer require special educational provision. The SEN register is a 'changeable' system.

When pupils do not make adequate progress, the SENCO will make a request for an education, health and care (EHC) needs assessment from the LA, when if despite an individualised programme of sustained intervention, the pupil remains a significant cause for concern. A needs assessment might also be requested by a parent or carer and student over 16 or outside agency. The school will have the following information available:

- The action followed with respect to additional support
- Student Support Plans
- Records and outcomes of regular reviews undertaken
- Information on the pupil's health and relevant medical history
- Progress Levels (Previously NC levels)
- Literacy/Numeracy attainments
- Other relevant assessments from specialists such as support teachers and educational psychologist
- The views of parents
- The views of the child
- Children's Services reports
- Any other involvement by professionals

#### **11. Review of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)**

EHCPs will be reviewed annually.

The SENCO will organise these reviews and invite:

- The child's parent
- The child if appropriate
- A representative of the LA
- Any other person the LA considers appropriate
- Any other person the SENCO considers appropriate

The aim of the review will be to:

- Assess the pupil's progress.
- Review the provision made for the pupil in the context of progress and levels of attainment in basic literacy/numeracy and other areas.

- Consider the appropriateness of the existing EHCP in relation to the pupils' performance during the year, and whether to cease, continue, or amend it
- Set new targets for the coming year

## **12. Parents' Concerns**

In the first instance, if there is a complaint to senior managers within the school or Heads of Year about provision for a pupil with SEN, it needs to be passed to the SENCO. The SENCO will investigate the complaint. Should the matter not be resolved, the next step is the school's complaints' procedure.

## **13. Training for Staff**

Bishop Douglass School is committed to providing and facilitating attendance at in-service training in the area of SEN. The school is committed to regular training for staff on pertinent SEN topics such as auditory processing difficulties, autism, attention deficit disorder, speech and language difficulties etc.

## **14. Outside Agencies**

The SEN Department continues to update the list of agencies with which the school works. This will be reviewed annually and may include but is not limited to the following:

- SEN Consultants
- Specialist teams (e.g. Sensory Impairment, Autism, Occupational Therapy)
- Educational Psychologists
- Physiotherapists
- Speech and Language therapists
- CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health services)

The SEN Development Plan fosters links with other schools and colleges for the appropriate placement of pupils at key transition points in their education.

**This policy will be reviewed annually.**

Date of last review: 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021

Date of next review: Autumn term 2022