



SEN Information Report

The Federation of St Cuthbert's & St Sebastian's

2020 - 2021



	St Cuthbert's	St Sebastian's
SENCo	Mrs Kate Lunt <i>National Award Special Educational Needs Co-ordination</i>	Miss Joanne Devine
Contact	0151 228 4137	0151 260 9697
Dedicated SEN Time	Wednesday (pm)	Wednesday (pm)
SEN Governor	Mrs Carol-Ann Murphy	

Aims

Our SEN Information Report aims to:

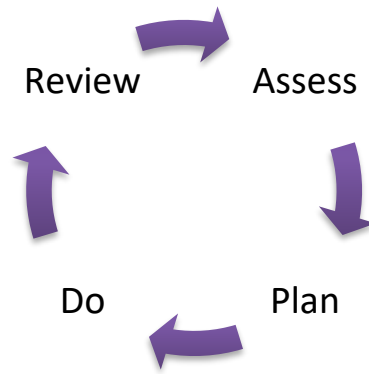
- Set out how our school supports and makes provision for pupils with special educational needs (SEN)
- Explain the roles and responsibilities of everyone involved in providing for pupils with SEN

Our Approach as a School

At the Federation of St Cuthbert's and St Sebastian's we are fully committed to providing a primary educational setting which has a strong focus on high aspirations and improving outcomes for all pupils, with or without special educational needs and / or disabilities (SEND). Both schools are proactive in ensuring that all pupils have full access to our rich and exciting curriculum, in which high-quality teaching underpins all provision. The staff of the Federation recognise that learning extends far further than the daily, curriculum-based provision within the classroom. We take pride in offering an extensive range of extra-curricular activities and in planning for opportunities within the wider school community – all of which play a major role in ensuring that all pupils have opportunities to recognise, develop and make use of their individual talents and skills. With a real focus on nurturing positive self-esteem and developing life skills, such varied opportunities support pupils in developing independence, resilience and confidence – all of which are essential in preparing for adulthood.

Where any pupil has been identified as having a Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND), we recognise that the individual pupil requires educational provision which is additional to, or different from the provision normally available to pupils of the same age. All class teachers are responsible for meeting the needs of every child in their care, including those with special educational needs. In ensuring that ALL pupils access appropriate provision, they, along with support from other colleagues and professionals (e.g. SENCo, Educational Psychologist), regularly reflect on the progress of pupils and consider next steps.

Underpinning ALL of our SEN provision in school is **The Graduated Approach** Cycle, with the child remaining at the very centre, at all times:



A more detailed explanation of each stage of the process is outlined below:

Assess: Assessment of learning is carried out in a number of ways and is an integral part to all teaching and learning, in all areas of the curriculum and a child's development. Observations, discussions, formative assessments (e.g. marking of class work) and summative assessments (e.g. end of topic / SATs) are just some of the many ways staff within school assess all pupils throughout the school day on a regular basis. It is never assumed that a child who is not making expected progress has a SEN. Instead, staff work in collaboration to consider potential barriers to their learning and other influencing factors (e.g. attendance, punctuality, personal circumstances).



When a child is identified as having a special educational need, additional assessments (internally / externally as appropriate), with a specific focus, may be sought from other professionals and agencies (e.g. an Educational Psychologist's consultation). The purpose of such assessments is to gain a more detailed understanding of the child's needs and to establish the best ways in which such needs can be met.

Plan: Outcomes of assessments and the analysis of such data informs the planning and delivery of high-quality teaching and learning, as well as additional intervention required. Staff within both schools are trained in a variety of specialist areas and can readily access the expertise of colleagues from across the Federation, with the needs and best interests of the children at the centre of all planning.

At times, school may seek the specialist support from other professionals perhaps from alternative settings within the Local Authority, in order to plan the most appropriate provision and support, specific to the individual pupil and their area of need. During the planning stage, parents / carers, teaching staff, the SENCO and at times additional professionals will all have a valued input to the process. Where there is involvement with a number of agencies, it is often purposeful to open what is known as an EHAT (Early Help Assessment Tool). This allows any professionals working closely with the child and family (e.g. paediatrician, class teacher, school nurse) to regularly meet and plan collectively; with the relevant professional leading, depending on the child's needs and circumstances. This collaborative approach can help to achieve a more holistic and consistent approach to meeting needs and achieving desired outcomes.

Any provision that is planned for the child is documented on Provision Maps and on Pupil Profiles (Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2) / Play Plans (Foundation Stage). These personalised documents are written with the

child's involvement and in collaboration with families / professionals. Such documents provide detailed and easily accessible information about the child so that all involved are able to ensure a consistency in approach. Examples of both documents can be seen below:

Pupil Profile:			
		UPN: DOB: Class: Key Staff: SEN Action: SEN Support	
			
Category of Need: Cognition & Learning Communication & Interaction Social, Mental & Emotional Health Sensory / Physical	Support I respond well to:	Support I have access to:	My Special Qualities & Aspirations:
Without support I can find it difficult to:	Targets I'm working towards:	Important facts to know about me:	
Date Completed:	Completed by:	Review Date:	
Signed (Teacher):	Signed (Pupil):	Signed (Parent):	
Updates / Review Involvement (circle as appropriate): Parent Pupil Teaching staff External Agencies: _____			

St Sebastian's and St Cuthbert's Early Years Foundation Stage			Play Plan Number:
This is me:	Pupil Information: Name: DOB: Age in months: Setting:	Likes and Interests: I am good at:	
My Next Steps for Learning are:	Links to EYF5 Framework:	Resources to help me learn:	
These are the people who will help me learn in the setting and at home: <small>Parents, class teacher, support staff, SEN/ISS etc.</small>	This is how they will help me to do it: <small>Spoken and language modelling, sensory play, manual activities etc.</small>	What I think about my play plan:	
Date Completed:	Completed by:	Review Date:	

Do: Whilst interventions and additional support may be offered by other colleagues or professionals, it is the responsibility of the child's class teacher to ensure that the plan is fully implemented. Provision may take place within the classroom, in small groups or on a one-to-one basis. The frequency of such provision will be determined by the nature of the support and the needs of the child.

Throughout the 'DO' stage, in order to ensure consistency in approach, colleagues and parents / carers must work closely and liaise regularly. On occasions, parents / carers may be invited into the school to observe the support that is in place and the way in which it is delivered – allowing for this to be emulated at home if appropriate.

Review: Communication between all involved is key to ensuring that the needs of the child are met. Regular discussions take place in school between the class teacher, support staff and external professionals (where applicable) who are working with the pupil so as to allow for feedback and updates to be shared. Regular meetings are held with parents / carers and key staff involved, to review the progress made and to plan the next steps for the individual child. The impact of implemented support and provision will be a key factor in determining the next steps for the pupil. Where impact is not evident, it is likely that a change in support / approach will be adopted. An intervention will never simply continue or be repeated unless it is seen to be having a positive impact on the child's progress. When considering this progress, a variety of data will be considered and questions discussed (e.g. Has attendance impacted on the outcomes of an intervention? Is the timetabling of intervention appropriate?)

If the school feels that additional funding could further support a pupil, an application for 'High Needs Funding' can be made to the Local Authority. An Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) can also be applied for either by the school or by the parent / carer of a child.

Range of Special Educational Needs

When considering Special, Educational Needs, the four broad areas of need, as identified within the Code of Practice (2014) are:

1. Communication and Interaction
2. Cognition and Learning
3. Social, Emotional and Mental Health
4. Sensory and/or Physical

The purpose of identification is to establish what action the school needs to take in order to provide appropriate support and personalised teaching to suit the individual needs of the learner - not to fit a pupil into a category. As a school we recognise that no two children are the same and needs within one of the 4 areas can vary significantly. As a school we review regularly the interventions, resources and training of staff in order to best meet the needs of all children with or without a SEND.

1. Communication and Interaction - for example where children and young people have speech, language and communication difficulties which make it difficult for them to make sense of language or to understand how to communicate effectively and appropriately with others. To support this area of need, additional classroom resources and equipment may be used for example visual timetables, PECS (Picture Exchange Communication System) cards.

This is an area in which members of the Federation have gained, and continue to gain a great deal of insightful information and professional development on, as a result of the professional dialogues that are regularly had with specialist settings and professionals.

Specific staff from across the Federation of St Cuthbert's and St Sebastian's are trained to deliver the examples of interventions listed below which support this particular area of need:

COMMUNICATION & INTERACTION	
Intervention	Purpose
Socially Speaking	Supporting social interaction, increase self-esteem, improve listening skills and expressive language abilities.
Philosophy for Children (P4C)	Nurturing discussions and appreciation of viewpoints / asking questions about the world around them.
Lego Therapy	Develop communication and problem-solving skills within small teams / groups.
WellComm	Supporting and developing early language skills.
NELI	Supporting and developing early language skills.

External agencies and professionals who we have sought advice and support from this year include:

- GP / Alder Hey Children's Hospital

- Speech and Language Therapy (SALT)
- Language Box
- Together Trust

2. Cognition and Learning - for example where children and young people learn at a slower speed than others of their own age despite appropriate differentiation, have difficulty understanding parts of the curriculum, have difficulties with organisation and memory skills, or have a specific difficulty affecting one particular part of their learning performance such as in Literacy or Maths. This is an area in which an extensive range of interventions are well-established. Specific staff from across the Federation of St Cuthbert's and St Sebastian's are trained to deliver the examples of interventions listed below which support this particular area of need:

COGNITION & LEARNING	
Intervention	Purpose
ReadWriteInc (1:1 Tutoring)	Additional phonics support for EYFS, KS1 & selected KS2 pupils.
Precision Teaching (P.T)	Tailor made programme to develop basic skills of Maths / Literacy / develop fluency / retention of skills.
1 st Class @ Number	Additional support for the Y1 and Y2 Maths curriculum.
Success @ Arithmetic	Provides support for pupils in consolidating the 4 operations and strategies for arithmetic – intended for 'borderline' pupils.
Read Theory	Additional reading support focusing on comprehension

As a school we continue to monitor the impact of such interventions on each individual pupil they are intended for. With high-quality teaching as an ongoing focus for all subjects and for all children, colleagues work closely together to constantly reflect on additional resources / styles of teaching that can be incorporated to everyday classroom practice. We actively seek additional training which may further support the Federation in this area and apply this if we feel there will be a positive impact on our pupils' learning.

External agencies / professionals who we may seek the advice and support from include:

- Special Education Needs Inclusion Support Service (SENISS)
- Educational Psychology Service (EP)

3. Social, Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties (SEMH) - for example where children may experience social and emotional difficulties which can manifest in different ways. This difficulty can present in varying ways – examples include: becoming withdrawn, displaying challenging behaviour, behaving in a disruptive manner and self-harming.

This is an aspect of SEN in which both schools have noted an increase in need. As a result, a great deal of time, planning and staff training has been dedicated to supporting the SEMH needs of our pupils. Examples of some of the interventions currently in place to support this aspect of SEN are listed below.

SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL & MENTAL HEALTH DIFFICULTIES	
Intervention	Purpose
Social Stories	Stories written to help pupils to further develop social understanding.
Think Yourself Great (TYG)	Helps children to make positive changes in their lives – benefiting their learning /self-esteem / relationships.
Rainbows	Support for children who have experienced some form of significant loss.
Emotional Literacy	Support emotional wellbeing of pupils within school and addresses things like self-esteem, friendship skills, social skills, anger management, therapeutic stories and loss/bereavement
Seedlings	1:1 support for children to explore and process feelings that are troubling them and develop confidence in expressing themselves.

To further support pupils with SEMH needs, the Federation often seek the support and expertise from a number of agencies and professionals who have a specialism in this area. As a Federation we envisage that this particular aspect of SEND is one which will require regular and ongoing training / support opportunities. Strong links are established with the following and their input sought at various points during this academic year:

- ADHD Foundation
- School Family Support Service (SFS)
- Child & Adult Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
- External Therapeutic Services
- eQe: Play Therapy
- Together Trust (SEMH)
- Social Inclusion
- Mental Health Support Team (YPAS MHST)

4. Sensory and/or Physical Needs - where a child has a physical disability or sensory impairment the relevant support is planned for and provided, often through the provision of additional / adapted equipment or by adjustments to the school timetable. In such cases, the named School Nurse may be contacted and they would support the school, family and most importantly the pupil, in planning for and implementing

appropriate provision. The School Health Service may be invited to attend reviews and discussions to ensure that staff in contact with the pupil have the relevant training / awareness of specific conditions.

At times, a Health Care Plan may be written to support the physical / sensory needs of pupils. In this, strategies, treatment and specific information on the pupil's needs would be documented and reviewed at least annually.

The medical expertise of professionals working alongside a child with sensory / physical needs are vital. It is their input which usually informs how best to support the individual. The following are services who we may seek and access support from:

- Physiotherapist
- Springwood Heath Outreach
- Occupational Therapist

As of the May 2021 CENSUS, St Cuthbert's have 60 pupils (24.29%) receiving some form of SEN support. St Sebastian's have 50 pupils (20.2%) receiving some form of SEN support.

We have internal processes for monitoring quality of provision and assessment of need. These include data analysis, termly SEND monitoring meetings with class teachers, close collaboration with parents/carers, discussions with external professionals.

Co-producing with children, young people and their parents

It is the child / young person who remains at the centre of our approach to SEN provision – the provision is personalised to suit **them**, to meet **their** needs and to support **them** in achieving **their** aspirations. Therefore, it is essential that they have an input and voice particularly in the writing of Pupil Profiles and planned provision. Their 'pupil voice' is vital and is obtained in ways appropriate for them (e.g. discussions, questionnaires, choices).

Staff fully appreciate the importance and value of regular communication with the parents of our pupils. Regular formal and informal discussions are encouraged in order to ensure that all adults with close contact to pupils have an up to date and informed knowledge of their needs and progress. There are various ways in which this is achieved, depending on the needs and circumstances of individual children: meetings to discuss and explore potential referrals to other agencies, Pupil Profile / Play Plan drafting and reviewing. Such communication is key to ensuring a holistic and consistent approach to identifying and meeting the needs of all of our learners.

Action / Event	Who is involved?	Frequency
Parents Evenings	Pupils, parents / carers, teaching staff	Termly
Pupil Profiles / Play Plans	Pupils, parents / carers, teaching staff, intervention staff, other relevant professionals.	Termly

Early Help Assessment Tool (EHAT) meetings / TAF meetings / reviews.	Parents, SENCo / Safeguarding Lead, external agency representatives.	At least every 12 weeks
EHCP Applications / Annual Reviews	Pupils, parents / carers, SENCo, class teachers, intervention staff, SEN representatives.	Annual / as required

Staff Development & Qualifications

We are committed to developing the expertise of our staff. As well as this, it is vital that staff have the necessary knowledge, skills and training to meet and support the varied needs of pupils in our mainstream setting. This year, SENCos have attended the SEND Briefings delivered by the Local Authority, as well as continuing to attend SEN Consortia meetings with our Heateachers. In addition, staff have accessed training on the following themes either through attendance of courses or visits to the school:

- The Roar Response to Mental Health in Primary Schools
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)
- Mental Health Support
- Philosophy for Children (P4C)
- Language Box for Early Years Foundation Stage
- ADHD in Early Years Foundation Stage
- ASD in Early Years Foundation Stage
- Staff Health and Wellbeing
- SENISS: Downs Syndrome
- Occupational Therapy: Sensory processing
- SENISS: Autism Education Trust & EYFS Play Journal
- Engagement Model - Using Assessment to support SEND

Staff Deployment

It is the needs of the children which lead decision making in the deployment of staff. All staff within the Federation recognise and appreciate that the needs of individual pupils and classes change. In meeting such needs, a flexible approach to planning and at times, staffing can be necessary if it is believed that pupils will benefit. As a result of this, on occasions, there may be a movement of staff (teaching and non-teaching) between sites / classes / key stages in order to ensure that the individual needs of children and the needs of classes as a whole are best met. Additional members of staff may be employed and timetables of staff are

tailored to suit the needs of children not only during class-based work but during lunchtimes and throughout the extended school day.

Finance

For any pupil in receipt of SEND support, we are required to provide appropriate and effective support for their individual needs. Our allocated SEND budget is used in a variety of ways. Examples of expenditure include: recruitment of additional adults; purchasing of additional resources; to release staff to provide intervention groups / additional 1:1 / small group support for pupils in class; fund the purchase of services from external partners. High Needs Funding may be applied for from the Local Authority for individuals who may need additional support. Extending our approach to school support, we commission external services using an outcomes-based approach. As part of the assess, plan, do, review process - the impact of provision and expenditure is monitored so as to ensure cost-effective practise.

Transition

It is essential that a consistency in approach is established and maintained in order to best support the needs of all of our pupils. This is particularly important when a pupil is due to experience some form of change (e.g. moving from Foundation Stage to Year 1 / moving from Year 6 to secondary school). It is appreciated that with such change, a degree of anxiety and uncertainty is often experienced. Therefore, staff plan and implement robust transition arrangements e.g. visual reminders, class layout, meet the staff photographs, routines etc for each year group so that the change is as subtle as possible for the specific pupil. During the transition stage the involvement of parents / carers, pupils and staff are at the core of all arrangements. We work closely with the colleagues involved in a child's new / temporary setting, in order to facilitate and support best quality provision and outcomes for the child.

Complaints

A 'concern' may be defined as 'an expression of worry or doubt over an issue considered to be important for which reassurances are sought'. A complaint may be generally defined as 'an expression of dissatisfaction however made, about actions taken or a lack of action'. It is in everyone's interest that complaints are resolved at the earliest possible stage. Many issues can be resolved informally, without the need to follow formal procedures. Our Federation takes informal concerns seriously and makes every effort to resolve the matter as quickly as possible.

There are occasions when complainants would like to raise their concerns formally. In those cases, the school's formal procedure should be followed through the stages outlined. Please refer to our school complaints policy which is located on the school [website](#).

Further Development

As a Federation we are keen and committed to extending and strengthening our practice in supporting the social, emotional and mental health needs of our pupils - it is critical that our schools feel fully competent

and confident in effectively managing and supporting the growing range of SEMH. This is particularly relevant at present, given the impact of COVID-19 restrictions and school closures. With significant reductions in outreach services and changes to funding made available to schools, there is a need for staff to work creatively in putting existing skills to best use and working collaboratively with other professionals in order to achieve best outcomes for our pupils.

We recognise the need for all of our pupils, not simply those pupils identified as having additional SEMH needs, to feel motivated, engaged in their learning. So too do we recognise and appreciate that every child is an individual, with their own learning preferences and styles of working, with some pupils having potential barriers to aspects of their learning. Our teaching takes into consideration the vast range of learning styles and our planning and delivery fosters a multi-sensory approach. We are fully committed to providing all of our pupils with a curriculum that is fully inclusive, accessible and memorable and as a result have evolved our teaching and timetabling significantly. This will continue to be a focus and priority for the next academic year.

Focus for 2021 - 2022 will be on:

- Further establishing a curriculum that accommodates all learning styles - adapting planning, resources, teaching styles & methods.
- Increase attendance and participation in extra-curricular activities for SEN support children.
- Providing opportunities and to develop and nurture resilience amongst pupils and their ability to self-regulate emotions.

Legislation taken into account when compiling this report include:

- SEND Code of Practice: 0-25 Years 2014
- Children & Families Act 2014
- Equality Act 2010
- Mental Capacity Act 2005

Relevant school documentation & policies underpinning this SEN Information Report

- SEND Policy
- Teaching & Learning Policy
- School Accessibility Plan
- Supporting pupils with Medical Needs
- Local Offer
- Children who cannot attend school due to medical needs