

# Acomb First School

## Special Educational Needs Policy



Approved by:	Hannah Williamson	Date: 05.03.2025
Last reviewed on:	05.03.2025	
Next review due by:	March 2028	

## **Acomb First School SEND Policy**

### **Vision**

At Acomb First School we will support all children to grow into confident, resilient, curious learners. They will be responsible, global citizens who will leave us with a lifelong love of learning.

### **Ethos**

Through great teaching and the support of our families and local community partners, we create an inclusive school that nurtures and develops our child's sense of belonging and happiness. We firmly believe that every child is unique and therefore brings different experiences, skills and ideas into the classroom. This in turn influences how they and others around them learn. We are committed to ensuring all children achieve their very best in all areas of school life.

### **Mission statement**

Through a partnership between home, school and the wider community, we provide a stimulating and caring environment in which to develop the whole child, preparing them for life.

At Acomb First School we believe that every child is entitled to enjoy their childhood, celebrate their individuality and reach their full potential. We aim to do this through:

- Developing lively enquiring minds, with the ability to question and argue rationally and to apply themselves to tasks and physical skills.
- Celebrating everyone's strengths and efforts no matter how small
- Offering wide ranging quality experiences that stimulate children's minds
- Encouraging respect for others, positive behaviour and good manners
- Building strong links between school, home and the local community
- Preparing children for future challenges in a changing world
- Through PSHE we will support children in gaining the knowledge and skills required to keep themselves safe, healthy and happy, and thrive in their future
- Valuing the opportunities we have to contribute to our community and the wider world

We wish every child to take with them happy memories of Acomb First School into their future life.

- Our Core Values
- Whole community collaboration
- Trust and Fairness
- Commitment and Hard Work
- Empathy towards others and a care for the wider community
- Excellence and Enjoyment
- Teamwork

## **SEND related beliefs and values**

Provision for children with SEND is the responsibility of the whole school and we expect every member of staff to accept and embrace this responsibility.

Class teachers are responsible for the teaching, learning and progress of all pupils in their class, including those with SEND and who are supported by specialist staff.

We recognise the need to work in partnership with parents and value the contribution parents make to their child's education. Children also contribute their views on the provision provided.

We recognise the individuality of each child and strive to help them to achieve their full potential. Every child is valued regardless of race, culture or religious beliefs and whatever their abilities or needs.

All children have the ability to learn and progress and we work to provide an environment where all children are valued, their potential nurtured and their achievements celebrated.

This policy was developed by the school SENDCo in consultation with staff and the Governing Body. It reflects the SEND Code of Practice, 0-25 guidance.

**The school SENDCo for Acomb First School is Mrs Hannah Williamson.**

## **Introduction**

Acomb First School promotes high standards and all pupils, regardless of their particular needs, are offered inclusive teaching, which enables them to make the best possible progress and develop as valued members of our school community.

We offer a range of provision to support children with communication and interaction, cognition and learning difficulties, social, mental and health problems or sensory or physical needs. We have high expectations of all children and staff and we believe that it is the entitlement of all children to have the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

## **Compliance**

This policy complies with the statutory requirement laid out in the SEND Code of Practice 0-25 (July 2014) 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 (July 2014)

Schools SEN information report regulations – (September 2014)

Statutory guidance on supporting pupils at school with medical conditions (April 2014)

AFS Safeguarding Policy

AFS Accessibility Plan

Teachers Standards 2021

## **The main changes from the SEN Code of Practice (2001) are as follows:**

- Now covers 0-25 year olds and includes guidance relating to disabled children and young people as well as those with SEND
- Focuses on the participation of parent, children and young people (CYP) in decision making.
- Focuses on high aspirations and improving outcomes for children
- Gives guidance on joint planning and commissioning to ensure close co-operation between education, health and social care.
- Gives guidance for education on graduated approach to identifying and supporting the child or young person with single special needs (SEND) support – replacing School Action and School Action plus. It follows this format: Initial concern, pupil profile/passport, classroom support plan, COSA referral, EHCP.
- Children's paperwork should be reviewed termly.
- STAR funding can be applied for to help support boosting either individual children or small groups.

## **Definition of 'SEND'**

The Special Education and Disability Code of Practice: 0-25 years (2014) states:

Xiii 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.

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

- Has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of 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 or mainstream post 16 institutions.

The definition of disability in the Equality Act (2010) states children with '...a physical or mental impairment which has a long-term (more than 12 months) and substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities'. This includes children with sensory impairments as well as long-term health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy and cancer.

It also states that schools must make reasonable adjustments, including the provision of auxiliary aids and services, to ensure that disabled children and young people are not at a substantial disadvantage compared with their peers.

## **Broad Areas of Need**

There are four broad areas of need:

- Communication and Interaction
- Cognition and Learning
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties
- Sensory and/or Physical Needs

When children are assessed and identified with SEND, we ensure that their needs are met and additional support is given where required, (Ordinarily Available Provision) either within school or in collaboration with specialist external agencies. Children with SEND are taught and managed sensitively with a view to promoting their inclusion in all school activities as far as this can be reasonably arranged as well as promoting independence.

All children have access to a challenging curriculum, which is broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated. When additional specialist advice and support, beyond what is offered in school, is necessary, we contact the appropriate external agencies and work closely with them to promote the child's wellbeing and development.

Our SEN Information Report provides further information about the agencies we work with.

### **Identification of 'SEND'**

A key principle under the Code is that there should be no delay in making any necessary SEND provision in early years as delay at this stage can give rise to learning difficulty and subsequently to loss of self-esteem, frustration in learning and to behaviour difficulties. The Code states that:

"Early action to address identified needs is critical to the future progress and improved outcomes that are essential in helping the child to prepare for adult life".

Some children arrive at our school with identified SEND, in which case the SENDCo will liaise with the previous school, nursery or setting to ensure there is a smooth transition and continuity of provision. If, during a child's time at our school, teachers have concerns about pupil progress or attainment, parents will be contacted to discuss these concerns so they can share their views. There is a period of monitoring and review, including an analysis of the child's progress compared with peers, national data and expectations of progress. Following this, (and in consultation with all relevant staff at school, the child (if appropriate) and the child's parents), a child may be identified as having SEND and appropriate provision will be made.

If parents have any concerns about their child they should contact their class teacher in the first instance.

Alternatively, they may make an appointment to see the SENDCo/ Head teacher.

Many children may be subject to this period of monitoring and review for a short time, receiving time-limited and targeted interventions until they have progressed sufficiently to work at age-related expectations.

### **SEN Support**

Where a child is identified as having SEN/D we work in partnership with parents to establish the support the child needs. Once a child's needs have been discussed by relevant parties they are recorded and decisions made about the desired outcomes, including the expected progress and attainment for that child. The views and wishes of the child and their parents are central to these discussions. At the initial concern stage, teachers ensure that they provide 'quality first teaching' as part of their classroom routine – differentiating as needed. (At pupil profile/passport stage, this becomes more formalised and children will receive 'same day intervention' as part of this process along with continued 'quality first teaching').

After a given period of time (usually 6-8 weeks), progress is reviewed and if children are continuing to have difficulty, a 'Passport Plan' is written and the relevant interventions are put in place – this can include input from external agencies. This is aimed at removing barriers to learning and putting effective special provision in place that is implemented and reviewed termly. Parents are invited to discuss this plan; their child's progress and the support and targets. Class teachers and the SENDCo are available for further discussion by appointment through the school office.

We use a graduated approach with four stages of action: assess, plan, do and review this means:

**Assess** - in identifying a child as needing SEND support, the early years practitioner/ class teacher, working with the SENDCo, the child (if appropriate), and the child's parents, carries out an analysis of the child's needs. This assessment draws on the teacher's assessment and experience of the child, their previous progress and attainment, as well as any other available (rate of progress, attainment, and behaviour etc.). This assessment should be reviewed regularly. In some cases, outside professionals from health or social services may already be involved with the child. With the agreement of the parents, these professionals should liaise with the school to help inform the assessments.

**Plan** - Where it is decided to provide additional / SEND support, and having formally notified the parents, the practitioner / class teacher and the SENDCo agree, in consultation with the parent, the desired outcomes. Interventions and/or support are put in place, the expected impact on progress, development or behaviour, and a clear date for review recorded. All teachers and support staff who work with the child are made aware of their needs, the outcomes sought, the support provided and any teaching strategies or approaches that are required. This will also be recorded on our school's information system.

**Do** - The class teacher remains responsible for working with the child on a daily basis. With support from the SENDCo, they oversee the implementation of the interventions or programs agreed as part of additional/SEN support. Where the interventions involve group or one-to-one teaching away from the main class teacher, they should still retain responsibility for the child. The SENDCo should support the practitioner /class teacher in assessing the impact of the action taken, in problem solving and advising on the effective implementation of support.

**Review** - The effectiveness, impact and quality of the support / interventions is reviewed, in line with the agreed date, by the practitioner / class teacher and SENDCo, taking into account the child's parents and the child's views. This should feed back into the analysis of the child's needs. They revise the support in light of the child's progress and development, deciding any changes to the support and outcomes. Parents should have clear information about the impact of the support and interventions provided, enabling them to be involved in planning next steps.

This cycle of action is revisited. At agreed times parents are engaged with the setting, contributing their insights to assessment and planning. Intended outcomes are shared and reviewed with the child (if appropriate) and parent as well as the school.

## Graduated approach to SEN

### **Wave 1:**

#### Quality First Teaching (QFT)

All children receive inclusive quality first teaching (QFT) which may include the provision of differentiated classwork. Some children at this level may be on a monitoring list, their progress being carefully tracking and reviewing.

### **Wave 2:**

#### Additional School Intervention

Continued or increase concern may lead to children receiving additional, time-limited and targeted interventions to accelerate their progress to age-related expectations. These interventions may involve group or one-to-one teaching and same day interventions. The SENDCo and class teachers will work closely with any support staff to plan and assess the impact of the support and interventions and to link them to classroom teaching. At this stage, children from other agencies may be sought.

### **Wave 3:**

#### High Need

Where a child continues to make less than expected progress, despite interventions, they receive highly personalised interventions to accelerate their progress and enable them to achieve their potential.

When appropriate, specialist outside agencies support this. The SENDCo and class teachers work with specialists to select effective teaching approaches, appropriate equipment, strategies and interventions in order to support the child's progress.

If support is not impacting on the child's progress and this is still of significant concern, the school, after consultation with parents and other professionals, will request an Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment from the Local Authority. Parents can also request an EHC Needs Assessment.

### **Home School Partnership**

We recognise that parents know their children best. Parents are always welcome to discuss their child and their views are respected and their concerns are taken into consideration at all stages of the SEND procedure.

All parents and /or carers are invited to meet with their child's class teacher, the SENDCo/Headteacher regularly e.g. termly, as well as receiving an annual report, to discuss progress made against targets.

## **Pupil Views**

Children's views matter to us.

All children are aware of their termly targets and are encouraged to self-review against these. As part of the review process, SEN pupils, are also asked about their views on their strengths, the areas in which they feel they would like to develop and the support they would like to receive.

For their annual review children with EHCPs are asked more formally about their views, their learning, their targets and the support and interventions they are given by the teacher or teaching assistant.

### **In order to ensure the most effective 'SEND' provision, the SENDCo has the following procedures in place:**

- Regular meetings with the Head teacher/Class Teacher
- Regular Governors Report to update on the SEN provision
- Termly meetings with all Class Teachers to discuss children on the SEN register and their provision, as well as further meetings and discussion as required.
- Pupil progress meetings
- Regular meetings with Teaching Assistants for Intervention Reviews.

### **Staff Development:**

The school is committed to providing INSET and staff development and SEND is a regular part of this. We monitor, review and develop all teachers and support staff's understanding of strategies to identify and support pupils with 'SEND'.

### **Staff conduct and behaviour:**

All pupils have a right to be treated with respect and dignity. Adults must not use any form of degrading treatment to punish a pupil. The use of sarcasm, demeaning or insensitive comments towards pupils is not acceptable in any situation. Deliberately intimidating pupils by shouting or overbearing physical presence is not acceptable in any situation. Any consequences or rewards used should be part of Acomb First's Positive Relationships, Behaviours and Attitudes policy and should be adhered to by all.

### **Conclusion:**

Our intention is to provide the opportunity for all children, including those with SEND, to progress towards achieving their full potential. The partnership between home and school is highly valued and children's views are listened to.



**Related policies:**

This policy should be read in conjunction with other school policies particularly:

- Attendance Policy
- Positive Relationships, Behaviours and Attitudes policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Wellness Policy
- PSHE and RE Policy

Date: January 2025

Review date: January 2026

## **Appendix 1 Broad areas of need: From Code of Practice (0-25) 2014**

### **Communication and interaction**

6.28 Children and young people with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) have difficulty in communicating with others. This may be because they have difficulty saying what they want to, understanding what is being said to them or they do not understand or use social rules of communication. The profile for every child with SLCN is different and their needs may change over time. They may have difficulty with one, some or all of the different aspects of speech, language or social communication at different times of their lives.

6.29 Children and young people with ASD, including Asperger's Syndrome and Autism, are likely to have particular difficulties with social interaction. They may also experience difficulties with language, communication and imagination, which can impact on how they relate to others.

### **Cognition and learning**

6.30 Support for learning difficulties may be required when children and young people learn at a slower pace than their peers, even with appropriate differentiation. Learning difficulties cover a wide range of needs, including moderate learning difficulties (MLD), severe learning difficulties (SLD), where children are likely to need support in all areas of the curriculum and associated difficulties with mobility and communication, through to profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD), where children are likely to have severe and complex learning difficulties as well as a physical disability or sensory impairment.

6.31 Specific learning difficulties (SpLD), affect one or more specific aspects of learning. This encompasses a range of conditions such as dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia.

### **Social, emotional and mental health difficulties**

6.32 Children and young people may experience a wide range of social and emotional difficulties which manifest themselves in many ways. These may include becoming withdrawn or isolated, as well as displaying challenging, disruptive or disturbing behaviour. These behaviours may reflect underlying mental health difficulties such as anxiety or depression, self-harming, substance misuse, eating disorders or physical symptoms that are medically unexplained. Other children and young people may have disorders such as attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactive disorder or attachment disorder.

6.33 Schools and colleges should have clear processes to support children and young people, including how they will manage the effect of any disruptive behaviour so it does not adversely affect other pupils. The Department for Education publishes guidance on managing pupils' mental health and behaviour difficulties in schools – see the References section under Chapter 6 for a link.

### **Sensory and/or physical needs**

6.34 Some children and young people require special educational provision because they have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of the educational facilities generally provided. These difficulties can be age related and may fluctuate over time. Many children and young people with vision impairment (VI), hearing impairment (HI) or a multi-sensory impairment (MSI) will require specialist support and/or equipment to access their learning. Children and young people with an MSI have a combination of

vision and hearing difficulties. Information on how to provide services for deaf/blind children and young people is available through the Social Care for Deaf/blind Children and Adults guidance published by the Department of Health (see the References section under Chapter 6 for a link).

6.35 Some children and young people with a physical disability (PD) require additional ongoing support and equipment to access all the opportunities available to their peers

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>By who</b>	<b>Date due for review</b>
September 2022	Policy written	HW	
November 2022	Ratified by governors	FGB	Nov 2023