



SEND Policy and Information report 2021/22

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1. Aims

Our SEN policy and information report aims to:

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

As a trust we are committed to placing the Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of our ethos and values.

Our approach to meeting the needs of children with special and additional needs supports the rights to:

- Not be discriminated against for any reason, including your race, colour, sex, language, religion, opinion, origin, social or economic status, disability, birth, or any other quality of your parents or guardians (Article 2).
- Say freely what you think should happen and to have your opinion taken into account, when adults are making decisions that affect you (Article 12).
- Special care, support and education, if you have a disability, so that you can lead a full and independent life and participate in the community to the best of your ability (Article 23).
- Have a free and compulsory primary education. School discipline should respect your rights and dignity (Article 28).
- An education that develops your personality, talents, mental and physical abilities. It should prepare you for active participation in a free society, and encourage you to respect your own culture and other people's culture (Article 29).
- Rest, have leisure, play and participate in cultural and artistic activities (Article 31).

As a trust we believe that parents are an integral part of their child's education and we will always involve families in decision making processes.

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy and information report is based on the statutory [Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\) Code of Practice](#) and the following legislation:

- [Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014](#), which sets out schools' responsibilities for pupils with SEN and disabilities
- [The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014](#), which set out schools' responsibilities for education, health and care (EHC) plans, SEN co-ordinators (SENCOs) and the SEN information report

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3. Definitions

A pupil has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for them.

They have a learning difficulty or disability if they have:

-
- A significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or
- 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

Special educational provision is educational or training provision that is additional to, or different from, that made generally for other children or young people of the same age by mainstream schools.

4. Roles and responsibilities

4.1 The SENCO

The SENCO at The Willows Primary school is Clare Elliott
(c.elliott@willows.manchester.sch.uk)

They will:

- Work with the headteacher and SEN governor to determine the strategic development of the SEN policy and provision in the school
- Have day-to-day responsibility for the operation of this SEN policy and the co-ordination of specific provision made to support individual pupils with SEN, including those who have EHC plans
- Provide professional guidance to colleagues and work with staff, parents, and other agencies to ensure that pupils with SEN receive appropriate support and high quality teaching
- Advise on the graduated approach to providing SEN support
- Advise on the deployment of the school's delegated budget and other resources to meet pupils' needs effectively
- Be the point of contact for external agencies, especially the local authority and its support services
- Liaise with potential next providers of education to ensure pupils and their parents are informed about options and a smooth transition is planned
- Work with the headteacher and governing board to ensure that the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements
- Ensure the school keeps the records of all pupils with SEN up to date

4.2 The SEN governor

The SEN governor will:

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- Help to raise awareness of SEN issues at governing board meetings
- Monitor the quality and effectiveness of SEN and disability provision within the school and update the governing board on this
- Work with the headteacher and SENCO to determine the strategic development of the SEN policy and provision in the school

4.3 The headteacher

The headteacher will:

- Work with the SENCO and SEN governor to determine the strategic development of the SEN policy and provision in the school
- Have overall responsibility for the provision and progress of learners with SEN and/or a disability

4.4 Class teachers

Each class teacher is responsible for:

- The progress and development of every pupil in their class
- Working closely with any teaching assistants or specialist staff to plan and assess the impact of support and interventions and how they can be linked to classroom teaching
- Working with the SENCO to review each pupil's progress and development and decide on any changes to provision
- Ensuring they follow this SEN policy

5. SEN information report

5.1 The types of SEND our school provides for:

We meet needs across the four areas of SEND: Physical and Sensory; Social Emotional and Mental Health; Cognition and Learning and Communication and Interaction.

Usually, children may have difficulty with some or a combination of the following:

- Understanding information
- Reading writing or maths
- Expressing themselves
- Understanding others
- Organising themselves
- Sensory perception or physical mobility
- Managing their behaviour
- Making friends or relating to others
- Some or all of the work in school

Some children with more complex needs may have a range of difficulties which do not fit into just one category. Their main need is identified and strategies are implemented to ensure they make the best possible progress for them. At The Willows we also run a smaller classroom provision for children identified as having more significant needs. The curriculum in this provision is adapted to meet the needs of those children and to support them in a range of different areas. Reading, writing and maths are taught in smaller groups to enable

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children to access their learning and make good progress. We also include lessons around communication, social skills and developing resilience.

5.2 Identification, Consultation and Assessing Need.

We have a graduated approach to SEND.

At The Willows we monitor children's progress through ongoing assessment and tracking to ensure we identify any needs as early as possible.

Class teachers use a range of learning styles to help children to learn. If a child experiences difficulties and is not making progress then this is raised as a concern as part of the regular pupil progress meetings and also with the SENCO or other specialist SEND staff within school.

Every child's progress is monitored by their class teacher on a regular basis. This can be in the form of:

Observation

Discussion

Questioning

Formal assessments

Individualised programmes

National tests at stated points in the child's education

This ensures children are making progress towards specified outcomes for the strategy, intervention or programme.

When strategies and appropriate interventions are implemented, parents will be informed and information shared about expected outcomes. Sometimes parents and the child will have a discussion with the class teacher and/or the SENCO or SEND teacher. As part of this discussion some next steps may be agreed together. We will take into account parental concerns

Children with social, emotional and mental health needs may be identified through Safeguarding processes. At The Willows there is a half-termly vulnerable children's meeting where children with these needs may be discussed there. There may be times where school staff feel that advice or assessment from a specialist practitioner is helpful and so a child may access: CAMHS; Educational Psychology; Speech and Language; Occupational Therapy; Sensory Outreach teachers for Hearing or Visual Impairment; Outreach support from local special schools or any other relevant service.

Identified children are monitored through the SEND register and this is updated at least annually in the autumn term. Parents will be made aware that their child is being monitored in this way at parents evenings. The majority of these children will be supported through differentiated work or specific strategies within the mainstream class.

Children and parents are encouraged to contribute to a 'One Page Profile' if they have complex needs and are working in a 1 to 1 situation with an adult. When new targets are set children are encouraged, where possible, to add to those targets in order for them to be personalised.

Children who have an Educational, Health and Care plan have an annual review, where the views of parents, the child and other agencies involved are sought. This is in addition to the annual report and parents evenings.

5.3 How The Willows supports your child to access school life

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All children receive quality first provision, this means that a range of teaching styles and appropriate learning objectives are set for all children with a curriculum matched to their needs. An exciting experiential curriculum is used to stimulate and excite all children's learning.

Our school curriculum is open and accessible to all. To make sure this meets each child's needs we differentiate appropriately. This could be in small groups, with a specialist teacher or through personalised learning plans.

We endeavour to include all children in all activities making reasonable adjustments so they can take part in school, visits and residential trips. Appropriate plans will be made for the provision of their personal care, dietary needs or medication. For further details please also see the school medication policy and accessibility plan on our website.

The Willows is a 1950s building sited on a sloped site, with upstairs classrooms and several changes of level on the ground floor. There are stair lifts installed to enable barrier free access to the school dining room and to the school hall. If children with disabilities require additional resources to access the school environment or their learning then the school seeks to ensure that these are in place and that those children and staff understand how to make good use of them. Occasionally the school may draw on the expertise of external colleagues, such as the outreach team from Lancasterian, occupational therapy or health professionals for advice for children with more individual needs.

The school website can be translated into a number of different languages to enable access for families with English as an Additional Language. Haveley Hey can arrange translators for meetings with parents of children with SEND where appropriate.

If, despite a high level of intervention and support, a child continues to work well below national age related expectations or does not make the expected rate of progress, a number of professionals including an Educational Psychologist (EP) may be consulted by the school in order to reach a decision regarding future provision for your child. Parents/carers and children are always important partners in these discussions.

5.4 Expertise and specialists at The Willows

Staff access regular training appropriate for their needs in order to support children. This can be through peer support, 1 to 1 training, groups or courses dependent upon the needs of the child.

In addition to the SENCO, the school employs an SEND teacher. The SEND teacher runs The Beehive provision for students with significant and complex needs (many of whom have EHC plans). The school employs two specialist reading teaching assistants who support the development of early readers across Key Stage 1. Currently there are 6 SEND teaching assistants in place to support specific children, the majority of whom either have EHC plans or are on a pathway towards assessment for this. 2 TAs are in place to support the speech and language development of identified children across the school

A specialist literacy teacher provides assessment and teaching for children with persistent literacy difficulties for two days each week. The school also offers a dedicated counselling service through the charity Place 2 Be.

In addition to the provision in school, specialist teachers and expert advice are sought to raise attainment and achievement for children including those who are looked after by the Local Authority.

This can be in the form of specialists commissioned by school:

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- Multisensory literacy approaches for children with specific literacy difficulties
- Educational Psychology Services
- Speech and Language therapists
- Occupational Therapists
- Behaviour consultant
- Sensory support service
- Local special schools with outreach services eg Ashgate, Lancasterian
- Learning consultants

Along with any others that are felt appropriate to help to meet the needs of the child.

5.5 Supporting emotional and social development.

Within school the Rights of Every child are promoted through assemblies, emotional literacy based lessons and the school ethos. Children are aware that they can speak to any adult in school they feel most comfortable with. Any issues are dealt with swiftly; please see our school anti bullying policy for more information along with the safeguarding policy.

All children from Reception age are able to access Place 2 Be, a child led therapy service which supports children's emotional and social development through a play approach. This is an 18 place service commissioned by school for those who need support at times of emotional and social difficulty. Every Looked after child is encouraged to access the service.

All Key Stage 2 children can choose to access Place 2 talk – giving them a chance to be heard in confidence with an adult who is not part of the teaching staff. This is self-referred by the child and issues pertinent to the child including any incidences of bullying can be discussed.

Parents are able to access the parent counsellor on a self-referral basis.

There are a number of services that school accesses in order to promote the wellbeing of individuals, these include:

- School nurse
- Child and Adult Mental Health services, Child and Parents service
- Paediatricians
- Local special schools with outreach services for emotional and social difficulties.
- Charities working with specific issues (eg Eclipse)

The views of LAC children and SEND children are sought regularly as part of an annual survey and more informally by the rights respecting council within school.

5.6 Other agencies and services

The Willows works with a range of agencies from health and social care, voluntary sector and local authority support services. Some of which have been included in other parts of this document.

Some agencies not yet detailed but who have worked with families within school include:

- Local housing associations
- Ace Centre North – AAC
- The Gaddum centre – bereavement counselling
- Eclipse

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- Early Help Hub
- Health visitor
- Specialist nurses
- Parent Partnership
- Independent Advice Service (formerly Parent partnership)
- IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisors)
- Wyth SafeSpots (Domestic Violence support)

Children with SEND may have additional meetings with a range of other agencies. This may include a formal process called the Early Help Assessment.

5.7 Effectiveness of provision

The provision provided within school is evaluated through the outcomes achieved by the children. The tracking system provides data that is scrutinised at pupil progress meetings and informs the class teacher and vulnerable children's meeting so that appropriate strategies and interventions can be sourced. Academic progress is monitored on a termly basis by the 'Academic Outcomes Committee'.

Individual learning plans are evaluated alongside interventions. All interventions are monitored for quality of delivery against the expected outcomes by observation.

The provision map is continually under review in order that interventions give good value for money and have impact upon the children's learning.

5.8 Transition

We recognise that transitions can be difficult for a child with SEND and take steps to ensure that any transition is as smooth as possible.

New to The Willows

You and your child will meet the class teacher and complete an admissions pack with a member of the Senior Leadership team. Time will be given for you to look around the school and discuss any questions you may have.

If your child is starting in Nursery then a member of staff will visit you and your child at home too. For further details see our Early Years and Foundation Stage policy.

Moving classes

Information will be passed on to the new class teacher in advance and in most cases a planning meeting will take place with the new teacher. A 'meet the teacher' morning is also put in place for all parents at our school. Every child has a time to meet their new teacher in their new classroom. Some children may need a personalised approach for this process.

If your child is moving to another school

We contact the SENCO to make sure they know about any special arrangements or support that needs to be made for your child.

In Y6

The SENCO attends meetings with your child's chosen secondary school.

For children who are looked after additional meetings with the designated teacher also take place. Your child will have focused learning about aspects of transition to support their understanding of the changes ahead.

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This may include some group activities within school. Where possible they will visit the new school in advance on a number of occasions and in some cases staff from the new school may visit your child.

5.9 Complaints procedure

We hope that you will feel all your child's needs are being met at The Willows. If you feel there is more that we can do, school always welcomes your views. Come and discuss any issues in the first instance with the SENCO (Ms Elliott). Mrs Croke, the head of school will discuss any issues that we are unable to resolve to your satisfaction. The Information and Advice Service (IAS) will also support you in these meetings if you wish. Their parent confidential helpline is available Monday to Friday from 10am – 3pm on 0161 209 8356.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy and information report will be reviewed by Clare Elliott (SENCO) every year. It will also be updated if any changes to the information are made during the year. It will be approved by the governing board.

7. Links with other policies and documents

This policy links to our policies on:

- Accessibility plan
- Behaviour
- Equality information and objectives
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions

Please follow the link on our school website within the SEND section to find out more about the Local Offer.