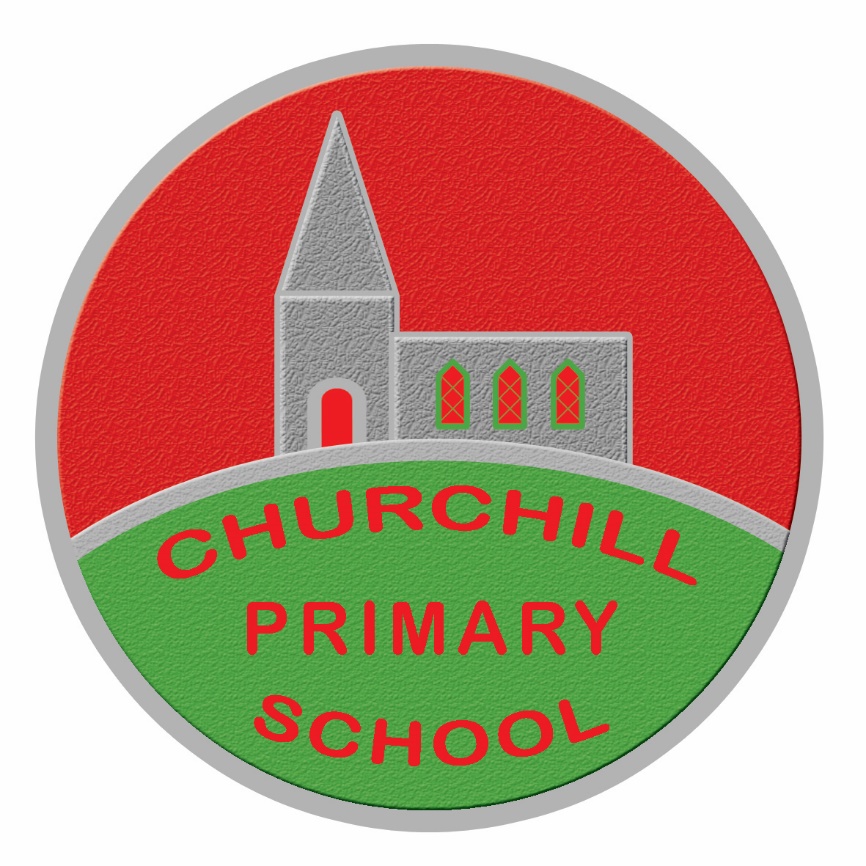
Churchill Primary School



SEND Policy

Updated March 2022

**Current Legislation Guiding SEND**

The legislation that currently governs practice regarding children and young people (C&YP) with special educational needs (SEN) is the Education Order (1996). The current Code of Practice on the Identification and Assessment of SEN provides guidance on how the legislation is to be delivered in schools and was published in 1998.

SENDO (2005) increased the rights of C&YP with SEN and/or disabilities to be educated in mainstream schools and aimed to ensure that children with disabilities were not disadvantaged compared to their peers in school. This included the school being proactive in areas such as ensuring that the school is prepared with an adapted environment and differentiated curricula for all children who may wish to attend, including those with SEN/Disabilities.

The Supplement to the CoP was published in 2005 and updated parts of the 1998 CoP to reflect the changes following SENDO (2005).

The most recent legislation, the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act (NI) 2016, strengthens and builds upon the duties contained within the Education Order (NI) 1996 and SENDO (NI) 2005. It places new duties on the schools Board of Governors, the Education Authority and Health and Social Care Trusts. It provides new rights for parents and children over compulsory school age. It is one element of the new SEN and Inclusion Framework which include new SEN Regulations and a new statutory Code of Practice as of 2021, awaiting ministerial approval.

NB: In the interim, schools have been advised that they must continue to adhere to all aspects of the Code of Practice (1998) and the Supplement to the Code of Practice (2005), except for recording children under the new three stages of the Code of Practice.

**Mission Statement**

The ethos of Churchill Primary School reflects an inclusive, child centred approach, where staff are committed to providing equal access for all our pupils to a broad and balanced educational experience based on the Northern Ireland Curriculum. We recognise that some pupils during their school career may have special educational needs and/or a disability. In the interests of these children, we will endeavour to make every reasonable arrangement to provide for their individual needs.

# **Definition of SEN and Disability**

## **Special Educational Needs**

A child has special educational needs if they have a learning difficulty which calls for special educational provision to be made.

## **Learning Difficulty**

A child has a learning difficulty if:

(a) they have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than **the majority of** children of the same age;

(b) they have a disability which either prevents or hinders them making use of everyday educational facilities of a kind generally provided for children of the same age in ordinary schools; or

(c) they have not attained the lower limit of compulsory school age and is or would be if special educational provision were not made, likely to fall within (a) or (b) when of compulsory school age.

## **Special Educational Provision**

Special educational provision (SpEP) is educational provision, which is additional to, or otherwise different from, the educational provision made generally for children of their age in ordinary schools.

**Disability**

The following definition of disability is taken from the Disability Discrimination Act (1995):

A disability is when someone has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day to day activities.

(Paragraph 2.3)

# **Key Principles of Inclusion**

The Disability Discrimination Code of Practice for Schools (ECNI, 2006), states: *“…all pupils have a right to the same opportunities in the whole of their educational life.”*

Churchill Primary School has an inclusive ethos and actively seek to promote the inclusion of all children.

In order to make sure we meet our pupils’ needs and include them in all aspects of school life inclusion is an integral part of all school policies including the school’s SEN policy, school development plan and the school’s accessibility plan.

# **SEN and Medical Categories**

The following is the list of the five overarching SEN categories and sub-categories taken from: [Department of Education Northern Ireland (2019) *Recording SEN and Medical Categories – Guidance for Schools,* Bangor: DENI](https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/education/SEN%20and%20Medical%20Categories%20Guidance%20-%20January%202019_4.pdf)).

**1. Cognition and Learning (CL) – language, literacy, mathematics, numeracy**

a) Dyslexia (DYL) or Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD) - language/literacy

b) Dyscalculia (DYC) or Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD) - mathematics/numeracy

c) Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD)

d) Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD)

e) Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD)

**2.** **Social, Behavioural, Emotional and Well-being (SBEW)**

a) Social and Behavioural Difficulties (SBD)

b) Emotional and Well-being Difficulties (EWD)

b) Severe Challenging Behaviour associated with SLD or PMLD (SCB)

**3. Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN)**

a) Developmental Language Disorder (DLD)

b) Language Disorder associated with a differentiating/ biomedical condition (LD)

c) Communication and Social Interaction Difficulties (CSID)

**4. Sensory (SE)**

a) Blind (BD)

b) Partially Sighted (PS)

c) Severe/Profound Hearing Impairment (SPHI)

d) Mild or Moderate Hearing Impairment (MMHI)

e) Multi-sensory Impairment (MSI)

**5. Physical Need (PN)**

a) Physical (P)

**Children with a medical condition**

Children who have an identified medical condition will be recorded on the school’s medical register. Those who do not require special educational provision will be recorded on the Medical register only and will not be placed on the SEN register.

A pupil with a medical diagnosis or disability may or may not have a SEN but what is key is “does the pupil have a requirement for special educational provision to access the curriculum.”

A pupil can be recorded on both the SEN register and medical register if they have both a medical need and require special educational provision to be made for them.

The Medical Register is the responsibility of Mrs Louise Burton

The following is the list of the key medical diagnoses as commonly identified and agreed by the Department of Health which occur within the school population taken from [Department of Education Northern Ireland (2019) *Recording SEN and Medical Categories – Guidance for Schools,* Bangor: DENI](https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/education/SEN%20and%20Medical%20Categories%20Guidance%20-%20January%202019_4.pdf)).

* Epilepsy
* Asthma
* Diabetes
* Anaphylaxis
* Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
* Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)/ Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
* Dyspraxia/ Development Co-ordination Disorder (DCD)
* Developmental Language Disorder (Medical) (DLD)
* Global Developmental Delay
* Down Syndrome
* Complex Healthcare Needs
* Anxiety Disorder (includes social anxiety, phobia, school refusal, obsessive compulsive disorder)
* Depression
* Eating Disorder
* Psychosis
* Other Medical Disorder
* Cerebral Palsy
* Spina Bifida – with Hydrocephalus
* Spina Bifida – without Hydrocephalus
* Muscular Dystrophy
* Acquired Brain Injury
* Visual Impairment
* Hearing Impairment
* Physical Disability
* Other Medical Condition/ Syndrome

# **Policy Aims**

1. To identify pupils with SEN/disability as early and thoroughly as possible using a variety of measures and in consultation with appropriate personnel.
2. To ensure full entitlement and access for pupils with SEN/disability to high quality education within a broad, balanced, relevant, and differentiated curriculum.
3. To ensure that all pupils with SEN/disability feel valued.
4. To offer curricular, pastoral, and extra-curricular opportunities that allow pupils to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills so ensuring progress, promoting success and self-confidence.
5. To offer a broad curriculum which will promote intellectual, emotional, social, and physical progress in order that pupils can develop as valuable members of society both now and in the future.
6. To encourage parental partnerships in all aspects of SEN provision.
7. To consider the views of the child when planning and implementing SEN provision taking into account their age and capacity.
8. To support children in participating in making decisions in all aspects of their learning.
9. To strive for close co-operation between all services and agencies concerned to achieve an effective multi-disciplinary approach to meeting SEN.
10. To educate pupils with SEN/Disability, wherever possible, alongside their peers.
11. To develop a recording system so that each pupil’s performance can be monitored and reviewed appropriately.
12. To encourage and/or maintain the interest of pupils with SEN in their education and ensure they have a positive self-image.
13. To encourage a range of teaching strategies that accommodate different learning styles and promote effective learning.
14. To create a caring and supportive environment in which pupils can contribute to the planned provision in relation to their individual learning needs.
15. To meet the needs of all pupils who have SEN/Disability by offering appropriate forms of educational provision and the most efficient use of available resources.
16. To promote collaboration amongst teachers in the implementation of the SEN policy.
17. To work closely with EA services and other outside agencies as appropriate to support each pupil with SEN.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

**Arrangements for Co-ordinating SEN Provision**

Although meeting the needs of pupils with SEN is a whole school issue the overall responsibility for managing SEN provision resides with the Board of Governors and the principal of the school. However, to facilitate the day-to-day running of the provision the Board of Governors has delegated responsibility to co-ordinate the provision for pupils with special educational needs to Mrs Louise Burton (SENCo).

The following section highlights the key roles and responsibilities of all those involved in SEN provision:

### **Board of Governors**

The role of the Board of Governors of a mainstream school is to exercise its functions in relation to the school with a view to ensuring that provision is made for registered pupils with special educational needs.

The named Board of Governor responsible for SEN/Disability is :- Mr Stuart Eakin.

The Board of Governors has a statutory duty to:

* take account of the provisions in the DE Code of Practice on identifying and assessing special educational needs;
* use their best efforts to provide for pupils identified with SEN and that parents are notified of their child’s special needs;
* maintain and operate a policy on SEN;
* ensure that where a registered pupil has special educational needs, those needs are made known to all who are likely to teach them;
* check that the teachers in the school know the importance of identifying those registered pupils with SEN and of providing appropriate teaching;
* allocate funding for special educational needs and disability; and
* prepare and take forward a written accessibility plan.

(ESAGs Chapter 12; pg 8-9 Leadership and management; *SEN Resource File* - DENI, 2011)

**Principal**

The principal should:

* keep the Board of Governors informed about SEN issues;
* work in close partnership with the SENCo;
* liaise with parents and external agencies as required;
* delegate and monitor the SEN budget;
* Ensure consistency of practice and contribute to the realisation of the school development plan; and
* provide a secure facility for the storage of records relating to special educational needs.

### **SENCo / Learning Support Co-ordinator**

* The SENCo at Churchill P.S is:- Mrs L Burton.

The SENCo is responsible for:

* the day to day operation of the school’s special educational needs policy;
* responding to requests for advice from other teachers;
* co-ordinating provision for pupils with special educational needs;
* maintain the school’s SEN register and oversee all the records on pupils with special educational needs;
* working in partnership with parents of children with special educational needs;
* establishing the SEN in-service training requirements of the staff, and contributing as appropriate to their training;
* liaising with external agencies.
* Formulate a SEND action plan for the school development plan

### **Class Teacher**

The class teacher should:

* be aware of current legislation;
* keep up to date with information on the SEN Register;
* gather information through observation and assessment;
* develop an inclusive classroom;
* work closely with other staff to plan for learning and teaching;
* contribute to, manage, and review IEPs in consultation with the SENCo; and
* involve classroom assistants as part of the learning team.
* Aim to meet the needs of all children in their class.
* Present materials appropriate to pupil’s age, maturity, learning needs/ disability.
* Involve pupil/parent

### **SEN Support Staff/ Additional Adult Assistants**

Support Staff/ Additional Adult Assistants should:

* work under the direction of the class teacher;
* be involved in planning;
* look for positives by talking to the child about his/her strengths;
* provide practical support;
* listen to the child/speak to staff on the child’s behalf;
* explain boundaries and operate these consistently and fairly;
* keep records and attend meetings; and
* share good practice.

# **Pupil views**

In school, as far as reasonably practicable, we seek and have regard to the child’s views about their strengths, learning difficulties and education, taking into account their age and maturity. We seek and listen to their views about how they learn effectively and then focus on the strategies that work for them.

Key decisions for a particular pupil might include:

* contributing to their own assessment, provision, and progress;
* contributing to the review of IEPs, Annual Reviews, and the Transition process; and
* involving and supporting the pupils to participate in making decisions about matters affecting them.

Seeking their views and supporting them to participate in making decisions about their learning is good practice. The child’s progress will be more effective when both they and, where appropriate, their parents are involved, and account is taken of their wishes, feelings, and perspectives.

# **Parent/person with parental responsibility**

At Churchill Primary School, we acknowledge that successful partnerships between parents, pupils and school play a key role in promoting a culture of co-operation, openness and transparency and have a crucial impact on the effectiveness of special educational provision. Seeking the views of the child or young person also plays a key role in helping us understand individual needs.

Teachers, pastoral staff, LSCs, and other school staff all have a significant role in developing positive and constructive relationships with parents and pupils. We encourage this participation and value its contribution.

It is the school’s responsibility to inform parents when staff are considering placing the pupil’s name on the SEN register or moving the child between stages. It is essential that parents inform the relevant school staff of any significant needs their child may possess. They should do this as early as possible. For example, essential information may need to be made available by a parent upon a child’s entry to the school.

Parents should be invited as necessary to:

* meet with staff to discuss their child’s needs;
* attend review meetings;
* inform staff of changes in circumstances; and
* support targets on IEPs.

# **Admissions**

The admission arrangements with respect to the majority of pupils with SEN is consistent with the school’s general arrangements for all other pupils.

The Special Educational Needs and Disability Order (SENDO) (2005) legislation strengthened the right for children with a Statement to an ordinary school place unless it is against the wishes of parents, or it is incompatible with the efficient education of others. Children who have special educational needs but do not have a statement, must, except in specific circumstances, be educated in an ordinary school (Article 3(1) SENDO, 2005).

Children with Statements of SEN are placed in the school at the request of the Education Authority (EA). When seeking to place a pupil with a Statement, the EA will take into account the wishes of the child’s parents and the provision of efficient education for other children in the class or school and the efficient use of resources to determine the suitability of the placement. This arrangement is in line with SENDO legislation.

# **Accessibility**

The focus in the school’s accessibility plan is to:

* increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school’s curriculum. By way of example, this covers teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of the school such as participation in after-school clubs, leisure, and cultural activities;
* improve the physical environment of the school to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of education and associated services provided or offered by the school; and
* improve the delivery to disabled pupils of the information which is provided in writing to pupils who are not disabled. This should be completed within a reasonable time and take into account their disability and any preferences expressed by them or their parents.

At present:

* pupils with disabilities have equal access to all areas of the school building;
* the school is fully accessible to wheelchair users;
* there are well-equipped facilities for personal care;
* access to a broad and balanced curriculum can be facilitated appropriate to age, ability, aptitude, and attainments; and
* written information can be provided in a variety of formats upon request.

# **Special Facilities, Resources and Accommodation**

* Disability access toilet and personal care area
* Alternative ramps to use other than steps outside
* Nurture/Sensory area
* Outdoor classroom
* Assistive technology – Ipads, Apps, C2k Apps to support teaching and learning
* Small learning room adjacent to P6/7 mobile classroom

# **Annual Report**

The Board of Governors report annually on all aspects of SEN provision in school. The SEN section in the Annual Report contains information on: the number of statemented pupils; pupils that received provision from EA Pupil Support Services or Health and Social Care Trust; and those that accessed school-delivered special educational provision.

Hard copies of this report can be provided upon request from the school office.

SEND is an item on the agenda at each Governor meeting, with SENCo providing up to date information.

# **Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs**

It is vitally important that children with SEN are identified as early as possible and that an awareness of their possible difficulties is clearly communicated between all the professionals involved with their development.

*(Code of Practice 1998, paragraph 2.14)*

Children with SEN should be identified as early as possible and assessed as quickly as is consistent with thoroughness.

*(Supplementary Guide of the Code of Practice paragraph 5.12 - page 44)*

At Churchill Primary School, all staff are responsible for the early identification of children with SEND. The following may be used to identify pupils’ needs:

* information from transferring school;
* teacher observation;
* standardised tests analysis;
* diagnostic assessments;
* whole school assessment – Intelligence testing (P4&P6) CAT

Standardised tests (p3-7) - PTE/PTM/Mental Maths/SWST

British Picture Vocabulary test (P1)

Star Reader (P5-7)

* Results of screening tests are collated into class screens and analysed through SIMS. Children with inconsistent and low results will be identified by the class teacher and the Principal.
* Diagnostic Tests will be used with children with inconsistent or low screening results.
* key stage assessments;
* A record of concern may be completed;
* individual education plans;
* care plans;
* personal education plans for children who are looked after;
* statements of special educational need;
* annual reviews;
* professional reports;
* parental contributions;
* pupil contributions;

# **The Management of Special Educational Needs**

**The Three Stages of Special Education Provision**

In Churchill Primary School, we adhere to the three stages of the Code of Practice. These stages focus on the level of intensity of the special educational provision required for a child to make adequate progress commensurate with their abilities and improve their outcomes. Responsibility for pupils with SEN at each stage lies with the school, given the day-to-day role of the school in a pupil’s teaching and learning, with increasing EA involvement when required. A summary of the three stages of special education provision is set out below:

## **Stage 1 includes:**

* School delivered special educational provision;
* A PLP is required (currently IEP);
* The majority of special educational needs will be met at this stage;
* The responsibility lies with the school;
* Operates in mainstream schools and classes; and
* Reasonable adjustments and additional strategies and approaches are implemented, aimed at meeting, and addressing the child’s SEN.

The PLP (currently IEP) should contain the core information/evidence of the school action to inform a request, if considered necessary, for access to EA SEN services at Stage 2. The child will only move to Stage 2 once any external special educational provision is being implemented.

## **Stage 2 includes:**

* School-delivered special educational provision plus external provision, for example, the EA or the HSC Trust;
* A PLP is required (currently IEP). A smaller number of children will need this provision;
* The responsibility lies with the school plus external provision from EA;
* Operates in mainstream schools and classes (and by exception in special school or Learning Support Centre (LS Centre) for the purpose of assessment; and
* Reasonable adjustments, additional strategies and approaches are implemented plus resources, advice, guidance, support, and training provided through the EA SEN support services to address the child’s SEN.

In the event of a child not making progress, despite the external support from the EA, the child may require consideration for a statutory assessment. A new online form designed to guide the user through the process is used to make a request for statutory assessment. The PLP (currently IEP) contains the core school information the EA will use to consider and if appropriate make, a statutory assessment.

The pupil will remain at Stage 2 when a request for a statutory assessment is being considered, is being made and, if appropriate until a statement is made.

## **Stage 3 includes:**

* Pupils with a statement of SEN;
* School and EA delivered special educational provision plus any relevant treatment or service identified by the HSC Trust;
* A PLP is required (currently IEP);
* A smaller number of children will need this provision;
* The responsibility lies with the school and the EA –with input from the HSC Trust where relevant;
* Operates in mainstream schools, LS Centres attached to mainstream schools or special schools (as determined within the child’s statement);
* Reasonable adjustments, the school delivered special educational provision are implemented plus EA provision as set out in the Statement.

At Stage 3, the child has a statement and is receiving special educational provision (as set out in the Statement).

The pupil‘s PLP (IEP) should be revised, to reflect the content of the statement (as it relates to the PLP (IEP) including the SEN category (or categories); setting intended outcomes based on the objectives of the special educational provision and the nature and extent of the EA’s provision including any relevant service and treatment the HSC Trust are to provide; and any additional school provision or modifications to the curriculum, as itemised in the statement; the pupil's PLP (IEP) will be subject to regular monitoring, review and evaluation and will form the key basis of educational information to inform the annual review of the statement.

## **Exceptional Cases**

In most cases transition through the three-staged assessment process occurs in sequence. However, in exceptional circumstances, pupils may demonstrate such significant or unforeseen difficulties that with multi-professional and parental agreement a move to a higher stage of need is necessary immediately.

# **The Annual Review**

Article 19 of the Education (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 requires that any child or young person who is the subject of a statement of special educational needs, whether attending a special or mainstream school, must be reviewed annually, to make sure that the needs of the child or young person are still being met and to consider the appropriateness of the placement. Annual Reviews should be seen as part of the process of continuous monitoring of the child's progress.

The Annual Review procedure is designed to:

* gauge the child’s progress towards meeting the objectives specified in the Statement;
* review the special provision made for the child, including placement; and
* consider the appropriateness of maintaining the statement of special educational needs.

The annual review is carried out by the school on behalf of the EA.

The Review will take place in school and is chaired by the principal (or another person as delegated by the principal).

Relevant forms and the EA’s guidance for this process are available by contacting Statutory Assessment and Review Service (SARS) of the school’s local EA office or they can be downloaded from the [EA website](https://www.eani.org.uk/publications/annual-review-notes-of-guidance).

# **Record Keeping**

The SENCo keeps the following records in school:

* SEN Register;
* records of concern;
* individual education plans/(PLP)reviews;
* statements/annual reviews/transition plans;
* assessment results/data;
* individual pupil files;
* record of liaison/meetings with staff from the Education Authority’s SEN Support Services/Health and Social Care Trust
* minutes of meetings with parents; and
* support, advice, and training provided to staff.

# **Monitoring the Progress of Pupils with Special Educational Needs**

The SEN register is updated after each planning and review cycle.

It is the responsibility of the SENCo to ensure that the progress of pupils on the SEN register is monitored. This may be achieved by considering that:

* individual education plans are monitored and reviewed for quality, progression, and appropriateness through meeting with teachers on a regular basis;
* evidence is collated to demonstrate whether the pupil is making progress; and
* information gathered is used in future planning for intervention and to inform movement either up or down through the stages of the Code of Practice.

**SENCo’s Monitoring System:**

* SENCo talks to class teacher as necessary to monitor progress and discuss children’s progress.
* The SENCo meets termly with class teacher to discuss education plans and their reviews. Also to discuss allocation of time for reading Partnership, small group work etc.
* Monitors IEP targets to ensure targets are SMARTe and include progression.
* Ensure that the class teacher is keeping samples of work linked to targets.
* Review of IEPs and other relevant and purposeful measures that focus on educational outcomes and inform future planning and movement either up or down through the Code of Practice stages.
* Monitors the use of SEN classroom assistants.
* Ensures that pupils on the register are included in all aspects of school life.
* The provision for Statement pupils is reviewed annually and the provision is amended as required.

**Evaluation Procedures for SEN Provision**

* Review provision annually
* Update Board of Governors on provision.
* The computer SIMS program aids analysis and evaluation of SEN progress and provision.
* Non-objective criteria are not as easily measured; for example, an improvement in a child’s confidence, attitude or motor skills may simply be noted by parents and teachers and is equally valid and important.
* SEN pupil attendance is monitored termly and as required.
* Evaluate the number of pupils moving up and down the register.
* Samples of pupils’ work provide information on the variety of strategies used to assist children’s learning.
* Staff review their use of Classroom Assistants regularly, along with the IEP, to ensure effective use of resources.
* Evaluate impact of SEN training on strategies and provision.

# **Professional Development**

The principal in consultation with the SENCo oversees the professional development of all staff in his/her school. It is essential that all staff are kept up to date with SEN developments to provide effective teaching and support for pupils.

Following attendance at relevant internal or external education and training programmes, staff members should be encouraged to disseminate the information provided to build the capacity of their colleagues.

# **Partnership working**

In school we work with a range of EA Pupil Support Services, where appropriate, to receive training and guidance to support the school and parents in meeting the needs of children with special educational and medical needs. Examples of EA [Pupil Support Services](https://www.eani.org.uk/services) may include:

* Autism Advisory and Intervention Service (AAIS)
* Sensory Service
* Special Educational Needs Inclusion Service (SENIS)
* Literacy Service
* SEN Early Years Inclusion Service (SENEYIS)
* Language and Communication Service

Other services may include:

* [Behaviour Support and Provisions](https://www.eani.org.uk/services/post-primary-behaviour-support-provisions)
* [Education Psychology Service](https://www.eani.org.uk/services/educational-psychology-service)

**Other Support Services** (for example)

* RISE NI
* Barnardo's
* Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
* Child Development Clinic (CDC)
* Independent Counselling Service for Schools (ICSS)

# **Complaints**

All complaints regarding SEN will be dealt with in line with school’s existing complaints procedures.

* The school encourages parents to contact the class teacher, SENCo or principal with any concerns they may have about their child’s work or wellbeing .
* School complaints procedure: if a parent has a complaint they should contact the class teacher or SENCo who will seek to determine how to help the parents and child involved. If the parent is still concerned, they may wish to contact the principal. If further help is required, they may contact the Board of Governors.

If you have any queries in relation to special educational needs of a child with a Statement or who is currently being assessed for a statement of special educational needs, you can contact your local [EA Office](https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/special-educational-needs-sen/sen-contact-details). Please contact your SEN Link Officer in the first instance. Contact details should be on the EA documentation issued to you alongside your child’s statement.

## **Dispute Avoidance and Resolution Service (DARS)**

The [Dispute Avoidance and Resolution Service (DARS)](https://www.eani.org.uk/help-available/dispute-avoidance-and-resolution-service-dars) provides an independent, confidential forum to resolve or reduce the disagreement, in relation to special educational provision, between parents and school/Boards of Governors or the EA for pupils who are on the Code of Practice where previous attempts to do so have been unsuccessful.

Parents can contact the service which is provided by [Global Mediation](https://www.globalmediation.co.uk/service/dars/).

Involvement with DARS will not affect the right to appeal to the Special Education Needs and Disability Tribunal (SENDIST)

## **Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal (SENDIST)**

The [Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal (SENDIST)](https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/articles/special-educational-needs-and-disability-tribunal-0) considers parents’ right to appeal against the decisions made by the Education Authority about their child’s special educational needs whenever an agreement cannot be reached.

This service also addresses claims of disability discrimination in school.

**PARTNERSHIPS**

**Internal Meetings**

* At staff meetings, the principal and teachers discuss areas of concern and decide on a plan of action.
* Classroom assistants meet on a daily/ weekly basis (formal/informal) to discuss SEN pupils.

**External Partnerships**

* The SENCo, Principal and class teachers liaise with board support services e.g. behaviour management team and reading centres for advice.
* The SENCo, principal and class teachers liaise with Health and Social Services.
* The SENCo and/or Principal liaise with the Educational Psychologist - Mrs Karen Peters
* Class Teachers liaise with Literacy Support Teachers e.g. to share IEPs.
* A designated room is available to liaise in.

**Partnership with Parents**

* The importance of the partnership with parents is difficult to overemphasise. The home is the first and main deliverer of care and education in the child’s early years and it retains the influence on the education of the child when they begin school. Parents can and should involve themselves in their child’s education by, for example: reading with and to their children; helping with homework and providing stimulating experiences for the child.
* Some SEN Pupils will have a home-school diary.
* Parents will be informed of IEP targets and will be invited to reviews to discuss progress.
* We continue to develop a positive relationship with our parents and welcome them to contact school if they have any concerns.
* The specific partnership of the home in the SEN child’s learning programme is addressed in the IEP. Parents are provided with specific ways to support the targets
* Sharing of knowledge.

**Pupil Participation**

We actively encourage good relationships with our pupils. Pupils, where appropriate, will be involved in decision making. Their view will be sought and targets discussed with them. Pupils should have the opportunity to experience and celebrate success and the school will endeavour to foster a positive self-esteem.

**Links with other Educational Establishments and Transfer Arrangements**

* When transferring to another school, copies of appropriate records are made available.
* Where possible, the SENCo/class teacher will communicate with the SENCo/class teacher of the receiving school.

# **Monitoring and evaluating the SEN Policy**

The SEN policy will be reviewed annually. It will be amended as appropriate in light of changes in legislation or practice following targeted consultation with all staff members, parents, and external agencies. This policy will be brought to the Board of Governors for final approval.

Policy Date: \_ \_/\_ \_/\_ \_ \_ \_

Signature of Principal:……………………………………..

Signature of Chairperson of Board of Governors: …………………………………………

Review Date: \_ \_/\_ \_/\_ \_ \_ \_