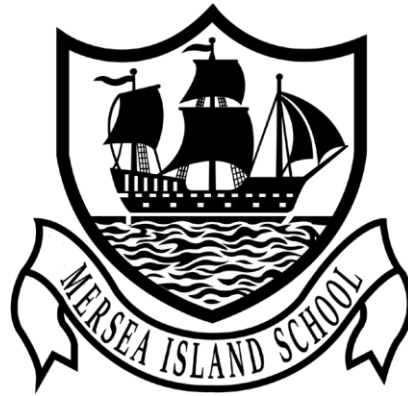




Special Educational Needs (Disability) Policy

January 2026

Mersea Island School

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Mersea Island School

Policy for Special Educational Needs (Disability)

COMPLIANCE

This policy was developed by SENCOs from the Tiptree and Stanway Consortium of 15 schools. This policy complies with the statutory requirement laid out in the SEND Code of Practice 0-25 (July 2014) 3.65 and has been written with reference to our school's SEN Information Report. It has been shared and agreed with staff, governors and parents. This policy has been written following NASEN guidelines 2014.

SECTION 1/2 – School/setting beliefs and values and aims around SEND

Mersea Island School is committed to providing an appropriate and high quality education to all children. We believe that all children, including those identified as having special educational needs have a common entitlement to a broad and balanced academic and social curriculum, which is accessible to them, and to be fully included in all aspects of school life.

We believe that all children should be equally valued in school. We will strive to eliminate prejudice and discrimination and to develop an environment where all children can flourish and feel safe.

Mersea Island School is committed to providing an inclusive education. Part of the school's strategic planning for improvement is to develop cultures, policies and practices that include all learners. We aim to engender a sense of community and belonging, and to offer new opportunities to learners who may have experienced previous difficulties.

This does not mean that we will treat all learners in the same way, but that we will respond to learners in ways which take account of their varied life experiences and needs.

We believe that educational inclusion is about equal opportunities for all learners, whatever their age, gender, ethnicity, impairment, attainment and background. We pay particular attention to the provision for and the achievement of different groups of learners:

- girls and boys
- minority ethnic and faith groups, Travellers, asylum seekers and refugees
- learners who need support to learn English as an additional language (EAL)
- learners with special educational needs
- learners who are disabled
- those who are gifted and talented
- those who are looked after by the local authority
- others such as those who are sick; those who are young carers; those who are in families under stress;
- any learners who are at risk of disaffection and exclusion
- learners who are vulnerable including those who are temporarily deemed vulnerable

This policy describes the way we meet the need of children who experience barriers to their learning, which may relate to sensory or physical impairment, learning difficulties or emotional or social development, or may relate to factors in their environment, including the learning environment they experience in school.

We recognise that pupils learn at different rates and that there are many factors affecting achievement, including ability, emotional state, age and maturity. We are particularly aware of the needs of our nursery, EYFS and Key Stage 1 pupils, for whom maturity is a crucial factor in terms of readiness to learn. We believe that many pupils, at some time in their school career, may experience difficulties which affect their learning, and we recognise that these may be long or short term.

At Mersea Island School we aim to identify these needs as they arise and provide teaching and learning contexts which enable every child to achieve to his or her full potential.

Mersea Island School sees the inclusion of children identified as having special educational needs as an equal opportunities concern, and we will also aim to model inclusion in our staffing policies, relationships with parents/carers and the community.

The Inclusion Manager is Mrs A Khan, holds the National Award in SEN Coordination and is also part of the Leadership Team. She reports regularly to the Governing Board on this area. Mrs Khan can be contacted via the school office on 01206 382736.

Mrs Khan works closely with the Nursery staff to address any SEND needs within the setting.

The SEN(D) Governor is Mrs C. Rutter.

OBJECTIVES

1. To identify and provide for pupils who have special educational needs and additional needs.
2. To work with the guidance provided in the SEND code of practice 2014.
3. To operate a whole school approach to the management and provision of support for special educational needs and know where, when and how to signpost to other services that could offer support.
4. To ensure that all staff within the school are committed to providing effective education for all pupils with Special Educational and Additional Needs.
5. To provide an Inclusion Manager who will work with the SEN(D) Inclusion Policy.
6. To provide support and advice for all staff working with pupils with Special Educational Needs or additional needs.
7. To ensure that the views of both the child and the parents of the child with Special Educational and Additional Needs are actively sought and taken into account.
8. To work in partnership with parents of pupils with Special Educational and Additional Needs and to recognise the vital role they have to play in supporting their child's education.

SECTION 3 – IDENTIFYING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

The code of practice describes the 4 broad categories of need:

- Communication and interaction
- Cognition and learning
- Social, emotional and health difficulties
- Sensory and/or physical needs

We will identify an area (or areas) of need and then work out what action we need to take. We identify the needs of pupils by considering the whole child which will not just include SEN(D) requirements. This process of identification is multi- dimensional, for example:

- When concerns are raised by parents/carers, teachers or the child
- When limited progress is being made in accordance with age related expectations
- If there is a change in the pupil's behaviour or progress
- When concerns are raised by external agencies (e.g. GP or school nurse)
- If information is provided from the previous setting (e.g. pre-school)
-

We are aware that other factors may impact upon progress and attainment, such as:

- Disability
- Attendance and Punctuality
- Health and Welfare
- English as an Additional Language
- Being in receipt of Pupil Premium Grant
- Being a Looked After Child
- Being a child of a serviceman/woman
- Being a vulnerable child

Please refer to policies covering these areas for further information.

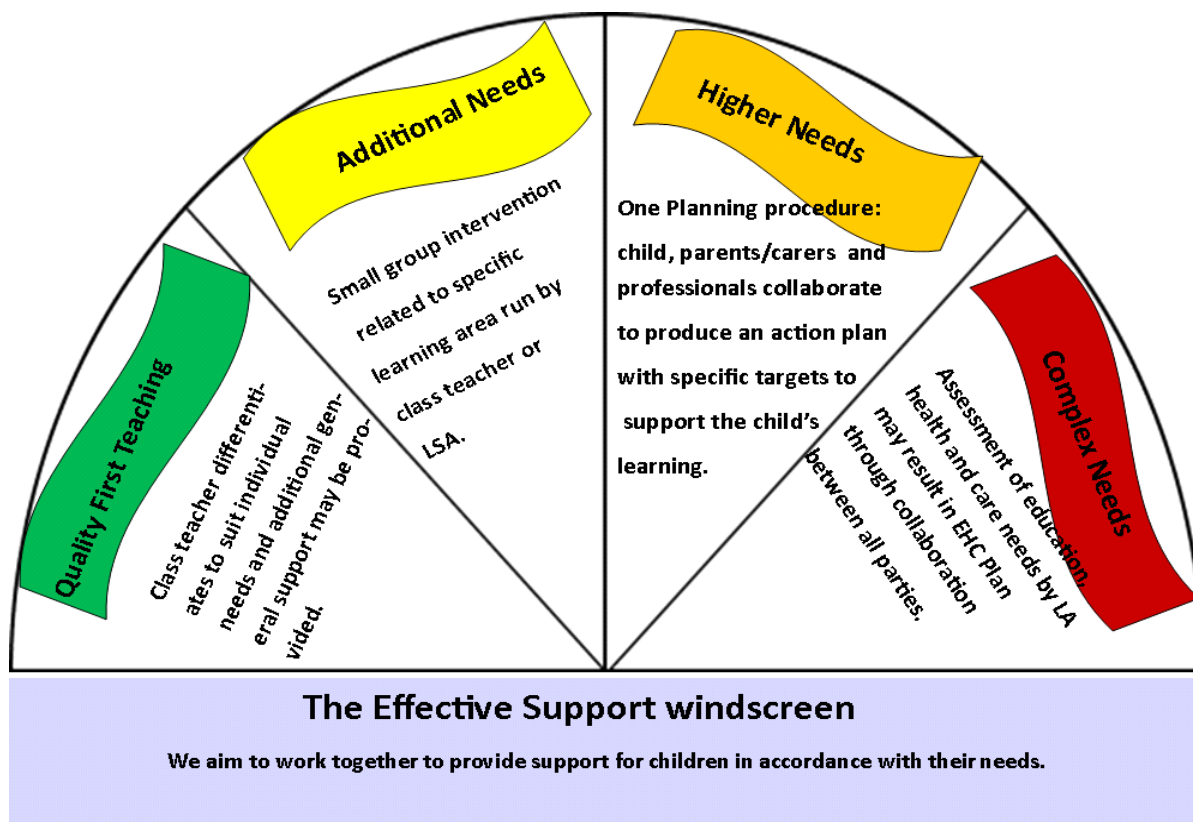
SECTION 4a - A GRADUATED APPROACH TO SEN SUPPORT

At Mersea Island School, we follow a graduated support approach which is called, **“Assess, Plan, Do, Review.”**

This means that we will:

- **Assess** a child's special educational needs
- **Plan** the provision to meet your child's aspirations and agreed outcomes
- **Do** put the provision in place to meet these outcomes
- **Review** the support and progress

The method of identification and provision follows a graduated approach:



Each pupil's education will be planned for by the class teacher as part of high quality teaching. Teaching will be scaffolded according to the pupil's individual needs. This may include additional general support by the teacher or learning support assistants in class.

If a pupil's needs relate to more specific areas of their education such as spelling, handwriting, mathematics or English skills then the pupil may be placed in a small focus group. This may be run by the teacher or learning support assistant. The length of time of the intervention may vary according to need but will be monitored regularly. Interventions will be reviewed by the Inclusion Manager to establish the effectiveness of the provision and to inform future planning.

If a pupil's needs are additional this may result in the creation of a 'One Plan.' The 'One Planning process' involves the family, the child and other relevant professionals. This process will identify outcomes for the child and how they may be achieved.

When a pupil's needs are more complex an assessment of educational, health and care needs may be undertaken by the authority and an Education Health Care (EHCP) plan developed.

This is developed in collaboration with the family, child, and as appropriate other relevant professionals.

At all levels of need the 'Assess - Plan - Do - Review' cycle is implemented throughout the school.

SECTION 4b -MANAGING PUPILS NEEDS ON THE REGISTER/EXITING THE REGISTER

Class teachers, parents and pupils work together to create a 'person centred' One Plan. This has clear outcomes to be achieved within an agreed time frame. The Class Teacher, with support from the Inclusion Manager, is responsible for maintaining the plan. It is the teacher's responsibility to evidence progress according to the outcomes described in the plan. The Inclusion Manager is responsible for writing the One Plans and Annual Reviews for pupils who have EHCPs in collaboration with parents and teachers.

Parent meetings and reviews take place three times during the year. Our school uses the Ordinarily Available guidance to determine the level of provision required. Where the pupil requires further support we will consult with external agencies and follow their referral pathways in consultation with parents and pupils.

SECTION 5 - CRITERIA FOR EXITING THE SEN REGISTER/RECORD

As part of the 'Assess - Plan - Do - Review' cycle if a child is identified as meeting national and age related expectations they may be removed from the SEND register. If a pupil no longer requires additional provision to be in place then they may also be removed. They will then continue to be monitored to ensure that progress is maintained.

SECTION 6 – SUPPORTING PUPILS AND FAMILIES

Support for pupils and families may include the following;

- The class teacher may suggest ways of how parents can support their child alongside homework activities
- The Inclusion Manager, Mrs Khan may meet with parents to discuss how to support their child with strategies to use that are specific to their child's needs
- If outside agencies or the Educational Psychologist have been involved suggestions and programs of study are normally provided by them that can be used at home

- The school website can be used to access resources, curriculum policies and links that will provide further support
- Through parent support group meetings focusing on specific topics such as phonics and behaviour management strategies
- Support from the Pastoral Learning Support Assistant for supporting pupils' emotional needs and wellbeing
- Parents Evenings and Review Meetings

TRANSITION ARRANGEMENTS

Reception staff will meet with staff from pre-school settings prior to pupils starting school. Concerns about particular needs will be brought to the attention of the Inclusion Manager after this meeting. Where necessary, the Inclusion Manager will arrange further meetings and observational visits.

Class teachers of children joining from other schools or nurseries will receive information from the previous school; if there is a SEN concern the Inclusion Manager will telephone to further discuss the child's needs. Children transferring from Mersea Island School to other schools will be provided with a record of particular needs and additional provision made by the school. The Inclusion Manager will discuss these children with other schools and where possible extra transition visits will be arranged to support pupils and liaise with the new SENCo and support staff.

Following a school or self-referral parents and pupils may also receive support from the following agencies:

- Children's Therapy Team (Speech and Language/Occupational Therapy)
- School Nurse/Health Visitor/Doctor
- Social Services
- Engagement Facilitator
- Emotional wellbeing and mental health service (EWMHS)
- Family Solutions
- Educational Welfare Service
- Educational Psychology service
- MIND

This provision is in line with our school's SEN Information Report which is available on the school website. Parents can also access additional information from the Essex Local Offer which can be found on the Local Offer website www.essexlocaloffer.org.uk

SECTION 7 – SUPPORTING PUPIL AT SCHOOL WITH MEDICAL CONDITIONS

Our school recognises that pupils at school with medical conditions should be properly supported so that they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education. Some children with medical conditions may be disabled and where this is the case the school will comply with its duties under the Equality Act 2010.

Some pupils may also have Special Educational Needs (SEN) and may have an Education, Health and Care Plan. This brings together health and social care needs, as well as their special educational provision following the SEND code of practice (2014).

Where appropriate our school creates a Medical Healthcare plan in collaboration with parents/carers and relevant professionals this is in line with the DFE 'Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions' updated guidance published in August 2017.

The school provides staff training to support the medical needs of its pupils and regularly shares and updates information relating to medical needs with all relevant staff.

SECTION 8 – MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF SEN PROVISION

We monitor and evaluate the impact and quality of SEN provision through a combination of the following:

- Annual reviews and the One Planning Process
- Pupil Progress Meetings
- Performance Management observations and discussions
- Observations and Discussions with Staff
- Book scrutiny
- Pupil Interviews
- Monitoring of Intervention groups through observation and data analysis
- Monitoring of Individual Support Plans

- Discussions with parents/carers
- Analysis by the Senior Leadership Team of whole school data
- Termly report on SEND to governors as part of the 'headteacher's report'

The SEND Governor has responsibility to monitor the provision for pupils with SEND and additional needs. This is achieved through the following:

- Termly meeting with the Inclusion Manager
- Pupil Voice
- Data Analysis
- Climate Walks and observations

All of the above form part of the ongoing 'Assess - Plan - Do - Review' cycle.

SECTION 9 – TRAINING AND RESOURCES

The SEND budget is allocated each financial year. The money is used to provide additional support or resources depending on an individual's needs. Additional provision may be allocated after discussion with the class teacher at pupil progress meetings or if a concern has been raised by them at another time. Resources may include deployment of staff depending upon individual circumstance.

Staff training needs and resources are identified through the 'Assess - Plan - Do - Review' cycle and are planned according to:

- whole school priorities
- group or individual needs
- Staff needs are agreed through Performance

Management This training may include the following areas:

- How to support pupils on the autistic spectrum
- How to support pupils with social and emotional needs
- How to support pupils with speech and language difficulties
- How to support pupils with attachment difficulties
- How to support pupils with literacy difficulties

All teachers and support staff undertake an induction on taking up a post. This includes a meeting with the Inclusion Manager to explain the systems and structures in place around the schools SEND provision and practice, and to discuss the needs of our pupils.

The school's Inclusion Manager regularly attends the consortium SEN meetings in order to keep up to date with local and national updates in SEND.

As part of the Tiptree and Stanway Consortium all members have access to update and relevant training related to SEND in order to support the needs of our pupils.

SECTION 10 – ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the statutory duty of the Governors to ensure that the school follows its responsibilities to meet the needs of its pupils with SEND, following the requirements of the SEND Code of Practice 2014.

- SEND Governor - Mrs C. Rutter
- Designated Safeguarding Leaders are the Head Teacher –Mrs T Wright, the Deputy Head Teacher Miss S Poole, the Inclusion Manager, Mrs A Khan and the Pastoral Lead Mrs C Jenkins
- The Deputy Head Teacher has responsibility for managing the Pupil Premium Grant and the Inclusion Manager is responsible for the Looked After Children funding.
- The Head teacher, Inclusion Manager and Office Manager are responsible for managing the medical needs of pupils.

SECTION 11 – STORING AND MANAGING INFORMATION

The Inclusion Manager stores documents in a locked filing cabinet. Electronic information is password protected and encrypted. Appropriate non-sensitive information is available to all staff on the network and forms a part of classroom assessment folders.

Mersea Island School fully complies with information legislation.

SECTION 12 – REVIEWING THE POLICY

Due to the climate of reform, as we embed any new requirements for SEND this policy will be reviewed annually.

SECTION 13 – ACCESSIBILITY

The Disability and Discrimination Act, as amended by the Equality Act 2010, placed a duty on all schools and LAs to plan to increase 'over time' the accessibility of schools for disabled pupils and to implement their plans. Our school has an Accessibility Plan and Strategy – these are available in school.

SECTION 14 – DEALING WITH COMPLAINTS

If a parent has any concerns relating to the school's provision for their child regarding SEND they can talk to the Inclusion Manager. The school aims to resolve any concerns the parent has in person, to arrive at a mutual understanding and agree the best way to support their child together. Please see our Complaints Policy for further information.

SECTION 15 – BULLYING

Our school takes all possible steps to mitigate the risk of bullying to all vulnerable learners. Please see the school Behaviour Policy.

SECTION 16- SAFEGUARDING

Children with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities can face additional safeguarding challenges. Our school should ensure their child protection policy reflects the fact that additional barriers can exist when recognising abuse and neglect in this group of children.

These can include:

- Assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's disability without further exploration;
- Being more prone to peer group isolation than other children;
- The potential for children with SEN and disabilities being disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying, without outwardly showing any signs; and communication barriers and difficulties in overcoming these barriers.

Mersea Island School takes all aspects of Safeguarding seriously and all school policies and procedures are in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2024. All staff are aware of the increased risk and vulnerability of SEND pupils and this group of pupils are closely monitored by the Inclusion Manager, the Pastoral Lead and the Safeguarding Team.

The policies referred to throughout this document are referenced on the school website or through the school office.

- Inclusion Manager - Mrs A Khan (01206 382736)
- The school SEN information report can be found on the school website

To be reviewed January 2027