



SEND Policy

St Augustine's aims to offer children an educational experience where staff will strive to identify and remove barriers to learning and create an environment in which every child is encouraged to reach their potential and ensure quality, access and achievement for all.

Inclusion is central in the ethos of the school – a philosophy, which covers every child's rights and entitlement to the very best experiences education can offer.

In its aim to move towards becoming totally inclusive, the school is committed to constantly reviewing and evaluating its practices, systems and curriculum provision.

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COMPLIANCE

This policy complies with the statutory requirement laid out in the Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations (2014) and has been written with reference to the following guidance and documents:

- Equality Act 2010: advice for schools
- Schools SEN Information Report Regulations (2014) (see www.sendgateway.org.uk)
- The Children and Families Act 2014
- The Special Educational Needs (Personal Budgets) Regulations 2014
- Safeguarding and Keeping Children Safe in Education Guidance, 2014
- Statutory Guidance on Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions, 2014
- The Mental Capacity Act 2005

At a more local level and in order to secure consistency across the Multi Academy Trust, we have also referred to relevant documents on the Carmel Education Trust website, most notably the Anti – Harassment and Bullying Policy and the Safeguarding Children / Child Protection Policy. All other key documents will be set out in the Appendices at the end of this policy.

Our SENDCo is Mrs Lisa Thompson who is also the Deputy Headteacher.

You can contact Mrs Thompson via email using this address: office@staugustinesacademy.org.uk. If you prefer to telephone, then please contact us via the school office on 01325 380819

***“I have come so that they may have life, and life to the full”
(John 10:10)***

Many children at some stage in their development have special educational needs. Usually these can be met within the normal classroom situation where work is differentiated to suit the variety of needs within the group. Some children have more specific needs and require special support and learning techniques either temporarily to overcome some difficulty or permanently to ensure that learning is effective. In line with the School’s Mission Statement, Local Authority Inclusion Policy and the SEN Code of Practice we aim to provide as effectively as possible for a wide range of special educational needs.

- We put relationships first, seeking to properly know and develop each individual child
- We aim to teach in a way that helps children learn to love learning
- We teach the values of wisdom, service, truth, justice, peace, respect, generosity of spirit and looking out for others
- We pay close attention to individual needs, personalised planning and the essential contribution of parents and carers to help us educate the whole child

Every child is valued and we work to ensure that every child is well cared for. We believe that all have an equal right to a full, rounded education which enables them to reach their full potential. We do the very best we can to secure special educational provision for those learners who require it. By this we mean provision that is ‘additional to and different from’ that provided within the differentiated curriculum to better respond to the four areas of need identified in the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0-25 years. (Appendix 1) These areas are:

1. Communication and interaction
2. Cognition and learning
3. Social, mental and emotional health
4. Sensory / physical

We agree that every teacher is a teacher of every child or young person, including those with SEN

Our policy was developed through a process of consultation with discussions with children with SEND, parents/carers of pupils with SEND, the wider parent body, the SEND Governor, and all staff within school. This policy reflects the spirit of the SEND Code of Practice, 0-25 guidance

SECTION 2 Aims and Objectives

Aim

Our school's approach to SEN is shared across the Multi Academy Trust. Our vision for children with SEN and disabilities is the same as for all children in that they have high aspirations, aware that they are known, valued members of their community. We believe that all children have an equal right to an education which enables them to fully develop their personal, social and intellectual potential. We focus clearly on outcomes for our children. All of our children should be supported to live happy, fulfilled lives.

We see high quality provision as essentially involving the skilled matching of curriculum to individual need. We believe that channelling our energies into the collaborative planning, personalisation, delivery and review of targets, will bring high aspiration into reality.

Objectives

1. To identify and provide for pupils who have special educational needs and additional needs. We will do this by:

- reviewing and developing our identification and provision in genuine partnership, as appropriate, with children, parents/carers, SLT, SEN governors, internal colleagues, LA SEND specialists, external agencies (including representatives from health and social care), key transition links, special school colleagues and the voluntary sector
- making changes to procedure as quickly as possible, to ensure that we are timely and accurate in our identification and as effective as possible in our provision
- deploying resources efficiently and identifying and meeting relevant training needs
- working with close reference to the SEND Code of Practice 2014
- developing systems of assessment, recording and reporting which are easily managed, accessible and clearly linked to the SEN policy
- Providing individual strategies / targets, One Plans and EHC Plans which are consistently formulated, manageable and implemented as an integral part of short term planning and teaching.

2. To work within the guidance provided in the SEND Code of Practice, 2014

We will do this by:

- gaining good working knowledge of the guidance through close reading and attendance at training, as appropriate
- regularly reviewing our systems and practice in the light of the Code of Practice through internal meetings, via the mechanism of monthly Multi Academy Trust SENCo meetings, as well as via termly open discussion with and questioning by our governance, represented there by the Trust SENCo

3. To operate a “whole pupil, whole school” approach to the management and provision of support for special educational needs

We will do this by:

- Continuing to develop strong pupil voice, including representation by children who have special educational needs, additional needs and / or a disability
- Giving consideration to the role played by every adult in the school’s community and expecting them to at all times reflect the ethos of the school as outlined above, in the area of SEN and disabilities.
- Understanding that in order to do this effectively, all staff, including support staff, would need to be routinely considered regarding training opportunities wherever this would further the successful inclusion of children who have additional needs, SEN or disabilities
- Developing strong, effective communication systems that show crossover between all members of staff, with SENCo part of all key team meetings and having a strong voice on the leadership team
- By strengthening the specialist expertise of staff in the area of SEN through enhanced training in the area of SEN and disabilities, including a strong focus on the new category of ‘Social, Emotional and Mental Health’ needs
- By consulting across the community of the school on the development of this policy
- By ensuring that outcomes include those focused on healthy, happy, independent living

4.To provide a Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) who will work with the SEN Inclusion Policy

We will do this by:

- Ensuring that we appoint a qualified teacher to this post, who receives sufficient training to be able to well manage the day to day running of the SEN Policy
- Creating sufficient non-contact time for the SENCo to be able to effectively fulfil their duties, especially in relation to teaching and learning, including social skills or life skills learning goals, annual reviews, IEPs, One Plans and EHC Plans.
- Providing clear structure for the management of specialist support and curriculum intervention strategies (eg timetables, working guidance for support staff).

5. To provide support and advice for all staff working with pupils who have SEN or disabilities

We will do this by:

- Proactively creating internal face to face and online support networks for staff within Carmel Education Trust, so that all staff can be promptly signposted to sources of further expertise, as required
- Developing a regularly updated and easily accessed bank of contact details for external support under the headings of Education, Health and Social Care
- Providing dedicated time for SENCoS across the Trust to meet with one another as well as with the Trust's SENCo
- Maintaining and developing close links with Local Authority SEN teams and accessing the training that they offer

SECTION 3: IDENTIFYING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

We believe in the importance of early identification. This can avoid the development of a host of self-esteem, frustration in learning and behavioural difficulties and is recognised as an important area for regular investment in staff training. Attention is paid to the ability of staff to recognise a range of emerging needs, in line with the categories set out in the SEND Code of Practice, 2014.

The four broad categories of need set out in the Code are:

1. Communication and interaction
2. Cognition and learning
3. Social, emotional and mental health
4. Sensory and/or physical needs

Principles of identification

We see these categories as a useful tool in helping us to develop appropriate action plans, in collaboration with the child and their parents / carers and sometimes with the help of specialists in those areas, in order to improve learning outcomes. We recognise that putting children into any 'category' can potentially diminish the effectiveness of support. 'Labels' can become a self-fulfilling prophecy and contribute to a dismal, limiting experience for children and young people. We work to consciously counteract this possibility by viewing categorisation as a crude but helpful tool that is not allowed to become an end in itself. Accurate identification helps us to provide the most suitable provision for each learner. We seek to base provision on an understanding of each individual's strengths and needs, addressed through well-evidenced interventions targeted at areas of difficulty and using specialist equipment or software, where appropriate. Importantly, we recognise that all children within a category are individuals with essentially quite different personalities, needs and aspirations.

Strategic overview

We routinely analyse the take-up of activities by our pupils who have SEND, to check that these groups of pupils are engaging in the school's activities (and those offered via the Multi Academy Trust) alongside pupils who do not have SEND. The mechanism for this process at St. Augustine's RC Primary School is through SLT meetings

Identification of SEN is built into our approach to monitoring the progress and development of all pupils. We take a systematic approach, which ensures that clear, agreed referral procedures are followed. This approach ensures that parents/carers are always actively listened to and involved if staff, or indeed the parents / carers themselves suspect that their child may have SEN. Our processes are detailed below under 'A Graduated Approach.'

Senior Leaders and SENCo also seek to identify patterns in the identification of SEN within cohorts and compare these with national data. This can greatly assist the development of whole school planning, especially where there are particular types of need identified within a cohort. It assists us with the development of high quality teaching by sharing best practice and highlights focus areas for staff training.

Various issues can impact on progress and attainment, whilst not in themselves constituting SEN. These areas include:

- Disability (whilst the Code of Practice outlines the 'reasonable adjustment' duty for all schools provided under current Disability Equality legislation, these alone do not constitute SEN)
- Attendance and Punctuality
- Health and Welfare
- EAL
- Being in receipt of Pupil Premium Grant
- Being a Looked After Child
- Being a child of Serviceman/woman

Children who are identified as being affected by issues in one or more of these areas will be closely monitored via the school's usual data analysis mechanisms of half term data analysis, in conjunction with the assessment co-ordinator within school and in discussion with the schools SLT. Where progress is flagged as a concern, relevant staff will work in close collaboration with parents / carers and any relevant specialist, such as our English as additional language support for pupils who speak English as an additional language to improve progress.

Behavioural concerns will always be examined by experienced staff who know the child well, to determine the extent to which this may form an underlying response to social, mental health or emotional needs which can be swiftly addressed, in close collaboration with parents / carers and with possible input from a multi-agency approach, if housing, family or other domestic circumstances are thought to be contributing to the presenting behaviours. Assessments may be used to determine whether there are any causal factors such as undiagnosed learning difficulties, difficulties with communication or mental health issues. We also remain alert to the impact of bullying or bereavement, which can sometimes have a severe impact on well-being and sometimes (though certainly not always) lead to SEN, especially if unaddressed. For problems of a 'one-off' or temporary nature, behavioural issues will not usually be referred to the SENCo. Instead, the school's usual systems of sanction and reward will be applied, as appropriate, in line with the school's [Behaviour and Discipline Policy](#). Where problems with a child's behaviour persist, despite the provision of a burst of support, the question of whether or not the child may have SEN receives serious consideration.

SECTION 4: MANAGING PUPILS NEEDS ON THE SEN REGISTER

PROCESS – The Graduated Approach

Parents and carers, as well as the child him/herself, are involved at every stage of the assess, plan, do review cycle and their wishes, views and feelings are always taken into account. This applies to all SEN provision made by the school, whatever level of support is identified as necessary to support all round progress.

In response to the new Code of Practice, we have taken a 2 step approach to additional needs that are managed across the school *before* the point of entry onto the SEN Register. Our process of graduated support begins with 'Emerging Needs' then moves through 'Targeted Support.'

Increasing complexity of need will demand 'SEN Support,' as outlined below. Where significant, persisting and complex needs do not respond well to evaluated, adapted support at this level, then an extensive assessment of the child's SEN will be sought from the Local Authority (LA). This takes place in close consultation with the child and in partnership with their parents / carers, as well as with any relevant external agencies. LA SEN Officers assist with this process, along with Parent Partnership Officers provided by them. Where the LA decides that a full assessment is necessary, this may result in the establishment of an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan.)

Identification of Level of Need

Experience teaches us that most children with additional needs will present with needs best managed under one of the following descriptions of levels of need:

1. temporary and likely to respond well to a short burst of more focused support via the '**Emerging Needs**' approach
2. more persistent but likely to respond well to consistent approaches and personalisation of the curriculum as recommended via a Learner Profile, collaboratively drawn up with the child, parents / carers, the SENCo and other key support staff. This is known as '**Targeted Support.**' The Learner Profile may feature some advice from external agencies, especially where these agencies have recommended specific strategies known to be effective within their area of expertise, to help the child to make progress in academic and / or personal development terms.
3. more complex and substantial needs, where effective management relies on not only specialist educational expertise but also regular input from either health care professionals, social care or both. Here the level of provision is described as **SEN Support**. Children at this level may have had an assessment of their needs carried out by the LA, but it has been decided that their needs can be met from within usual delegated funds, occasionally supplemented by the LA.
4. significant and complex needs, where a **Statement of SEN** or an **Education, Health and Care Plan** may be necessary. EHC Plans are gradually replacing Statements issued before the publication of the new Code of Practice. The need for these is determined via a full assessment in accordance with the new Code, where appropriate. A child may arrive at St. Augustine's with an EHC Plan already in place, in which case we act at transition points to be well prepared to deliver the provision set out to help them to achieve individual learning outcomes.

EHC Plans exist for the minority of children whose needs are significant and complex; adequate levels of progress can only be made if significant levels of provision are put in place that meet local criteria and goes beyond what is normally available within the school.

Emerging Needs

These can be picked up at any time via, for example, the child him/herself, parent / carer or via a member of staff (usually the Class Teacher) A note will be made of any concerns and a brief plan drawn up in collaboration with the child and parents/carers, involving an external agency as appropriate, to try to ensure that concerns are addressed and allayed as soon as possible. The agreed strategies will be shared with relevant staff and a review date set within the period of no longer than half a term from the date the concern was identified.

Targeted Support

Unless a pupil arrives part way through an academic year, we normally prepare for their provision at all levels from Targeted Support onwards towards the end of the summer term, so that staff have useful plans in place to support progress from as early as possible in the new academic year. These plans will be firmed up with analysis of assessments, pupil and parent / carer views as early as possible in the autumn term.

This allows for:

- conducting, marking and analysis of any helpful baseline assessments
- a 'getting to know you' settling in phase for pupil and teacher alike
- the setting up of information exchange and planning meetings with the child and their parents/carers

Our planning at this level of support is gradually pulled together within the document known as a Learner Profile.

Learner Profile

This document is co-produced alongside the child and their parents/carers, with an active listening approach taken at all times by the SENCo leading the process. Our aim is that the agreed Profile will speed up the 'getting to know you process' for all staff that will be working with that child. This helps us to provide for their needs as soon as possible and can help prevent any misunderstanding. A picture of the child's strengths, interests, views, areas of difficulty and aspirations is captured, alongside those of their parents / carers. Together, we list personalised strategies thought likely to prove most effective. We incorporate strategies recommended by external agencies working with the child /young person, as appropriate. This may include advice from Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists or Educational Psychologists, to name but a few.

Pupil voice is very important here, especially with regard to personal preference for approaches that have been successful in the past. The document includes reference to any access arrangements that may be needed to ensure fair and equal access to assessment. It is shared among all those involved in supporting the child. For children new to school in Reception in September, we aim to have these documents shared with all parents/carers no later than the October half term.

SEN Support

This will usually follow exactly the same process as that for Targeted Support. The key difference is that the document used to capture the child's progress towards agreed learning outcomes will be a little more detailed in terms of references to agreed short term targets and will be known as a One Plan. As with the other graduated levels of support, documentation will be treated as a living record, not an end in itself.

Documents clearly set out identified needs, give advice about best how to remove key barriers to learning based on what works for the individual or at least what has worked before for others with similar needs at the same stage of development. They also set out clear outcomes to be achieved with the agreed support.

Responsibility lines are drawn, including reference to how plans will be reviewed and by whom. The input of the Class Teacher(s) and relevant support staff is expected at all levels of provision review. All involved in the collaborative development and review of both Learner Profiles and One Plans will be expected to write directly onto the documentation, wherever possible, to show progress made and include any amendments needed to strengthen or modify approaches being taken in the light of experience. An increasingly 'common language' will also be helpful to those regularly accessing such documents. Our emphasis is always about building on what works.

Review

We operate a half termly cycle of assessing, planning, delivering and reviewing the recorded provision. We use IEPs / Learner Profiles / Provision Maps and One Plans. These documents are kept up to date by Class Teachers, coordinated by the SENCo and assisted as appropriate by relevant support staff. In this school, part of the review feeds into pupil progress meetings by being discussed within the usual cycle of academic reviews, supplemented by further meetings or telephone conversations, throughout the academic year. Learner Profiles include relevant learning outcomes which need to be reviewed to check that the strategies agreed are proving effective. Evaluation of progress informs adaptation of current provision, as appropriate. Provision Maps for pupils who have the most complex levels of need are reviewed on a termly basis, as are One Plans. One Plans are currently in place for just the small number of children in St. Augustine's who have the very highest levels of need. This is a document produced by the LA, as appropriate to need. One Plans are kept up to date and reviewed with child/ young person and their parents/carers, by the Acting SENCo. Some Class Teachers are currently being trained to assist with this process by September 2015, under the supervision of the SENCo.

At St. Augustine's, the review feeds into pupil progress meetings by being highlighted within the usual cycle of academic reviews three times a year. This process involves the Multi Academy Trust Data Manager, who identifies discrete groups of pupils who have SEND and whose reports enable the SENCo to spot any areas of concern for prompt action to support progress.

Statements and Education, Health and Care Plans

We would normally try different approaches to fully meet the needs of a pupil through our own provision arrangements at the level of SEN Support (see above) over the course of 2 terms and 2 reviews, before reaching a joint decision that we are unable to fully meet the needs of a pupil through these arrangements alone. This would trigger a move towards requesting a full LA assessment, which may or may not result in the issuing of an EHC Plan. This decision represents a move to the next level of the graduated approach. We compare our evidence for doing this with criteria set out by our LA, as well as by taking on board the specific feedback from all involved.

If we believe and agree that additional support, for example, by engaging specialist services, could be helpful to the child's progress, we seek parental agreement via standard consent forms, with this process coordinated by SENCo. Where there is a cost to further provision options, this is considered by the appropriate member of the Senior Leadership Team alongside SENCo and any additional costs recorded in the student's individual SEN folder. Advice may be taken at this point from specialist SEN staff at the LA as well as from specialists such as our Business Manager within the Multi Academy Trust or from Health or Social Care staff, as appropriate. Information about costs is discussed with parents/families/children and young people wherever this is helpful in securing the level of support agreed to be necessary. We seek to find the most cost effective solutions possible, without compromising the quality of support offered. This is sometimes achieved through shared cost agreements across schools within the Multi Academy Trust.

If we identify that additional funding and support are needed, our SENCo, in collaboration with senior leaders, costs this out as accurately as possible, before approaching the LA using standard templates. We take advice from SEN Officers at the LA and can sometimes find further advice from SENCos or members of senior leadership teams across the Multi Academy Trust, the diocesan Catholic Partnership or other local area schools. We also have access to a helpful guide produced by the LA which provides some information on this subject.

The type of documentation completed depends entirely on the individual circumstances of the child, but in every case pupils and their parents / carers are kept informed, their agreement sought and their views are regularly taken on board through whichever channels of communication were identified early on as being the most effective for that family.

We do our very best to plan, deliver, review and record at all times in accordance with the guidance set out in Chapter 9 of the Code of Practice. At least once a year (more if required), our SENCo collates an Education Report by requesting an indication of the child's progress against the objectives set out in their statement / Education, Health and Care Plan from all involved staff. This information is collated into an overall report and sent out to parents / carers and others invited to review 2 weeks in advance of the review itself.

In terms of direct support from a Teaching Assistant, where this is appropriate to need, the level of provision hours agreed varies according to individual need. 'Learning outcomes' describes what we all agree to be the desired results of our joint efforts on behalf of the child. Our provision will always focus on what works in terms of moving a child towards their individual learning outcomes.

Please note that EHC Plans will gradually replace all current Statements of SEN by April 2018, with families fully involved and supported throughout this transitional phase.

Further details of our provision can be found under the 4 different categories of need within our Contribution to the [Local Offer](#).

SECTION 5: CRITERIA FOR EXITING THE SEN REGISTER/RECORD

All pupils listed on the SEN Register are reviewed on at least a termly basis, with the pupil and their family closely involved in this process. Wherever possible, reviews are linked into review mechanisms that apply to all pupils, not just those who have SEN. For example, the first review of the academic year would normally take place by October half term, in line with reviews of progress of all children within our school setting, as part of our inclusive review system.

SENCOs and all other staff involved in reviewing the progress made by pupils who have SEND, are reminded during SEN related professional development, of the importance of cultivating and celebrating growth in independent learning skills. We recognise that, for a small number of children, it will always be necessary to have their needs met via the provision of additional resources. For others, however, removal from the SEN Register (or removal of a statement / EHC Plan) is entirely possible within their school career. This marks both the child's own efforts and the effectiveness of the SEN provision that has been made over time. Where it is felt, having carefully considered the available evidence, that progress made is to the extent that the pupil can now safely have their needs met by the high quality teaching normally provided in the classroom, the decision to remove the child's name from the SEN Register will be raised with the child and their parents/carers. This decision will be based on improvement that has been seen to be sustained over the period of at least a term. Where the pupil and their parents/carers are satisfied that it would positively benefit the child's confidence to now have their name removed from the SEN Register, this will be done immediately and a certificate of congratulations will be sent to the child via their parents/carers in recognition of this excellent progress.

SECTION 6: SUPPORTING PUPILS AND FAMILIES

All schools within Carmel Education Trust work to provide clear, accurate information about a child's SEN and the purposes of any assessment or outcome-focused intervention that has been agreed with parents. We identify how parents can support progress towards targets at home. This includes progress linked to Learner Profiles developed for pupils receiving Targeted Support, as well as progress linked to a One Plan, a Statement of SEN or to an EHC Plan. On request, we will put parents in touch with local support or advocacy services for children, where they may find this helpful.

Parents and pupils will find a comprehensive, accessible guide to the provision available with this Local Authority and how it can be accessed via the following link [Darlington's Local Offer](#). Here we find in one place the provision expected to be available across education, health and social care for children and young people in our area who have SEN or are disabled, including those who do not have Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans. To view St. Augustine's specific contribution to this Local Offer, please visit our school's [SEN Information Report \(and Contribution to the Local Offer\)](#). This contribution is developed under our statutory requirement to provide such a report (Appendix 4)

Please find set out in the Appendices (Appendix 5), links with other key agencies who regularly work in partnership with us to support families and pupils. Remember that in many cases, your own family GP can be a great help, including providing support with the identification and treatment of mental health difficulties.

Admission Arrangements

Our admission arrangements clearly state that children who have a statement of Special Educational Need which names our school will be admitted. This wording will be revised at next review to reflect the transfer of statements to EHC Plans, which will be treated in exactly the same way as statements. ([Admissions policy](#)) - (Appendix 6)

Access Arrangements (assessments)

We have a system in school to ensure that those children who need additional support or different provision to enable them to access exams and other assessments are able to do so with confidence. To ensure that we identify children correctly, we have processes in place which include the following:

- Information gathered from pupils, parents and staff throughout their education.
- Information sent into school by parents or external agencies (with parental permission) regarding any additional needs. This may include information sent to the SENCo.
- Information emerging from routine observations and assessments administered by class teachers

Currently in our school the SENCo, supported by the Multi Academy Trust SENCo, where appropriate, is responsible for identification and provision in the area of access arrangements. Provision is supported by a wide range of suitably qualified staff, especially at times of external examinations such as SATs and Phonics Screening Tests. We follow a clearly identified process which involves a range of staff.

Pupils are prepared as well as possible for the access arrangements to which they are entitled. Relevant information regarding appropriate approaches to support fair access to assessments is shared with the pupil, with parents at bi-annual progress reviews and with relevant staff, so that this becomes the pupil's usual way of working in school. This helps to ensure that they are able to work using those arrangements in as natural and as efficient a way as possible. Our provision keeps in mind the importance of developing greater independence in this area over time and we invest in IT resources that research tells us are effective ways of helping to secure this.

Transition

We put a range of support in place to ensure that transitions go as smoothly as possible for this group of pupils. As we are aware that some children, particularly those who have needs on the Autistic Spectrum, those with mobility difficulties and those with a range of other 'low incidence' needs, require something above and beyond the usual high quality support that we offer all pupils at transition. This means that, where there is proven need, we may offer additional visits at different points in the school day to help

the child become more familiar with their new environment and with key support staff before they come to us. We also offer enhanced written, pictorial and audio-visual support, where this will help to lessen anxiety for an individual pupil. In some instances, a child's medical needs dictate that time is allocated to drawing up an Individual Healthcare Plan (IHCP) with the pupil and his/her parents. We will take advice as necessary from relevant health professionals and provide staff with training to ensure the safety of all children in our care. Please see Carmel Education Trust's Policy on 'Supporting Children in School with Medical Conditions' for more detail. **(Appendix 7)**

SECTION 7: SUPPORTING PUPILS AT SCHOOL WITH MEDICAL CONDITIONS

The 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 may also have special educational needs (SEN) and may have a statement, or Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan which brings together health and social care needs, as well as their special educational provision and the SEND Code of Practice (2014) is followed.

We have a clear, regularly reviewed system in place in school to support pupils with medical conditions. Administrative staff, the SENCo, trained first aiders including those trained to administer medication and the school nurse work closely together to ensure that we are providing the best approaches that we can in this important area. Our cycle of continuing professional development takes this area into account to ensure that all relevant staff receive training in areas relevant to the medical needs of their current school population. We are vigilant about ensuring that sufficient numbers of staff are trained, relevant to size of school population. In addition, we ensure that we are compliant with national guidance regarding the administration of medicines. At least 2 staff are trained to administer medication in line with Administration of Medicines guidance. Where children need to access medication that is stored in school this will be managed by relevant staff.

It is important to us that all children feel safe in school and that parents feel reassured that we will deal with any emergencies in a prompt, professional manner which preserves the privacy and dignity of the child. Details of national guidance in this area can be found at Appendix 8 and the link to Carmel Education Trust's Intimate Care Policy at Appendix 9.

SECTION 8: MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF SEND

We regularly and carefully monitor and evaluate the quality of provision offered to all pupils. This is managed in a variety of ways, which include

- Pupil progress reviews and data analysis
- Close analysis of data pertaining to vulnerable groups of learners by SENCo, including children with SEN and those with disabilities, tailoring teaching and learning in response to this analysis
- Regular meetings with parents and pupils, including reviews of statements and EHC Plans

- Consideration of parent and pupil views submitted to reviews of progress of children with SEN towards their specific learning outcomes
- Sampling of parent and pupil views, including via the School Council
- Close monitoring through the Involvement of school and Carmel Education Trust governors at termly meetings involving Head of Standards and SENCo for the Multi Academy Trust
- Collaborating with subject co-ordinators
- Organising resources to provide appropriate work and support for children with SEND in the classroom
- Involvement in strategic planning for SEND provision by identifying future needs and contributing to a strategic plan for inclusion
- Liaising with and advising colleagues
- Reviewing the progress of children with IEP's, One Plans and EHC plans

Evaluation and monitoring arrangements promote an active process of continual review and improvement of provision for all pupils. Please see the Review section of our SEN Information Report (Appendix 3) for further detail in this area.

SECTION 9: TRAINING AND RESOURCES

SEN is funded through a delegated budget for pupils of primary school age within Darlington Local Authority. Funding that comes into school for each pupil is added to from what is known as the 'notional' SEN budget for pupils who have additional needs that cannot be met within the scope of resources normally available. Based on recent research findings, we aim to design support around the principle of greatest effectiveness in meeting learning outcomes, as opposed to a provision-focused tally of support hours. If needs cannot be met through this mechanism, then additional funding is sought from the LA in close collaboration with the pupil, their parents and relevant external agencies.

Mrs Thompson will organise and identify areas of the training needs of staff, based on the review of provision and in the light of information coming in prior to key transition points, as well as questionnaires which are given to class teachers and support staff in the autumn of each academic year. This will be analysed by Mrs Thompson and discussed with the Head of School. After consultation, appropriate training will be organised by Mrs Thompson to support staff needs. The LA SEN Team often have an input here. Training is often provided by tapping into expertise already within Carmel Education Trust or the Catholic Partnership. Regular Trust and Partnership SENCo and Teaching Assistant meetings identify and provide high quality training. Within the Trust, the Multi Academy Trust SENCo provides training for a wide range of identified needs. As all teachers are teachers of children with SEN, all staff are regularly involved in training and development in this area. This often involves the skills and expertise of the school SENCo working with departments or with the whole staff, as appropriate.

All teachers and support staff undertake induction on taking up a post and this includes a meeting with the SENCo to explain the systems and structures in place around the school's SEND provision and practice and to discuss the needs of individual pupils. All

Trust SENCOs regularly attend LA SENCO network meetings in order to keep up to date with local and national updates in SEND. Our SENCO collaborates with Specialist Leaders in Education to tap into the outstanding teaching and learning human resources of the organisation to help drive standards within the area of SEN.

New staff will have the opportunity to meet with Mrs Thompson to discuss the SEND systems and structures in place at St Augustine's RC Primary and where appropriate, information on individual children will be shared.

SECTION 10: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

SENCO

The SENCO, as part of the senior leadership team, is able to represent the needs of children with SEND in all decision making and strategic planning. Primary responsibilities include:

- Liaising with and advising colleagues
- Co-ordinating provision and managing support staff
- Maintaining the SEN Support Register and recording system in accordance with Carmel Education Trust and Darlington LEA guidance
- Liaison with parents alongside the class teacher, as appropriate
- Monitoring and evaluating the quality of teaching, learning and standards of achievement then setting targets for improvement
- Reviewing the progress of children identified as having SEN or disability
- Supporting the accurate identification and assessment of pupils' SEN in close collaboration with children and parents, including advising on effective resources to support these processes
- Building up a resource bank of practical strategies to support staff with their effective differentiation of approach and work for pupils. This includes advising on the effective use of human and other available resource, including ICT, to maximise pupil progress
- Working with pupils, parents, external agencies and support staff to ensure that any advice given to us by external professionals working with the pupil is put into practice, as appropriate, reinforced through consistency of approach
- Collaborating with Subject co-ordinators to maintain and develop agreed, effective systems for the school's / college's identification, assessment and provision in the area of SEND
- Involvement in strategic planning for SEN provision by identifying future needs and contributing to the school's plan for the further development of inclusive practices which benefit the progress of all children, including those with SEND
- Attending governing body meetings and supporting the drafting of the SEND section of Governors reports, including helping to keep the school's SEN Information Report, Contribution to the Local Offer and SEN Policy up to date
- Liaising with local schools to ensure the smooth transition of pupils with SEND. The school's Transition Programme begins in Year 5 for pupils moving school at the end of KS2, where enhanced transition is required. It involves children, parents and colleagues in those schools and sometimes external agencies. It continues up to and occasionally beyond the point of transition.

Role of SEN Governor

It is the responsibility of the designated Governor, supported by Head of School, to:

- Support the SENCo in carrying out his remit to a high standard,
- Promote high expectations,
- Monitor and evaluate the quality of teaching, learning, attainment and progress,
- To ensure that SEN allocation in the budget enables, as far as possible, the SENCo to carry out the roles and objectives associated with the post and in doing so raise standards of provision
- Ensure commonality of practice in line with school policy

The Head of School and the designated Governor support the SENCo in monitoring the effectiveness of the procedures in place. The Head of School is also responsible for the management of Pupil Premium and LAC funding.

Role of Teaching Assistants

Our team of 5 full time and 2 part-time Teaching Assistants (TAs) primarily support the work of the class teacher, operating under their direct supervision and guidance. The quality of their relationship with the individual child is the bedrock of much of their work to support progress, including progress in personal development.

Our TAs are trained to be sensitive to the need to nurture independent learning skills and allocation of their directed time and energies during lessons should reflect this.

Designated Teachers with specific Safeguarding responsibility

In our school, safeguarding is the specific responsibility of Head of School, Mrs McCollom and in her absence, Miss M Browne

Member of staff responsible for managing PPG/LAC funding

This area of funding is currently managed by the Head of School, Mrs McCollom

Member of staff responsible for managing the schools responsibility for meeting the medical needs of pupils

Mrs Thompson manages our school's responsibility in this area. She works as part of a closely knit team (see Medical Needs section above) and follows a systematic, agreed approach throughout the academic year.

SECTION 11: STORING AND MANAGING INFORMATION

Documents are safely stored in locked areas and often within locked cabinets within those areas, depending on their level of sensitivity. This is in line with our school policy on Information Management (which includes information on how long to store documents, when they should be destroyed, what should be kept, where, etc.) and our confidentiality policy. If documentation of a more sensitive nature is sent electronically, it

is encrypted in the interests of confidentiality. The security of these systems is kept under review and supported by the Trust's IT Helpdesk.

SECTION 12: REVIEWING THE POLICY

This policy was updated in March 2015 in respect of the new 'SEND Code of Practice: 0-25 Years.' It will be further reviewed in 2015 or in response to legislative/practice changes.

The success criteria against which the SEN policy will be evaluated include:

- That pupils are assessed using the school's assessment procedures
- Teachers are increasingly confident in identifying children with SEN and offering differentiated learning activities within the classroom context
- Individual targets are specific and clearly linked to the child's current attainment and progress
- Individual tracking of children at Targeted Support and SEN Support stages shows measurable improvement and progress
- Children and parents are fully consulted throughout the setting and reviewing of targets
- The SENCo can provide evidence of the above through monitoring of classroom practice, evaluating and planning IEPs, One Plans, Statements and EHC Plans and monitoring progress levels.

We intend to keep this policy under annual review each September. We intend to be proactive here, making the review as pupil, parent and staff friendly as possible, with all stakeholders invited and supported in their involvement, where appropriate.

This will make this a more relevant policy and will help to keep it fresh, a helpful steer to the work we do in this area and as accessible as possible to all, including those who have SEND.

SECTION 13: ACCESSIBILITY

Statutory Responsibilities

The Disability Discrimination Act, as amended by the SEN and Disability Act 2001, 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. We produce accessibility plans for our school (see Appendix 10) and work with the LA, as appropriate, to record our strategies for work in this area.

It is part of the ethos of Carmel Education Trust schools to routinely identify and remove barriers to learning through all that we do, though we still occasionally find it helpful to apply a checklist or audit approach to be sure we are not becoming complacent in this area.

We increase and promote access for disabled pupils to the school curriculum in a wide range of ways. The following gives a flavour of what we do, but is by no means exhaustive:

- Sound boards
- Hearing loop
- FM Radio transmitter

Access to teaching and learning is promoted by the SENCo. It is considered vitally important that all learners are able to participate in after-school clubs, leisure and cultural activities and school visits, including residential trips. We run and act on risk assessments to make all activities accessible, taking advice as appropriate from external professionals.

We have improved access to the physical environment in recent years. We anticipate the needs of pupils and other members of the school visitors as best we can. Also, we aim to constantly develop the range and reach of adapted materials to support improving access over time.

In ways such as this we aim to make all written information normally provided to pupils available to disabled pupils. Parents are routinely encouraged to contact school if written material needs to be presented differently to improve access and we do whatever we can to make these alternative publications available promptly, using parents' preferred formats wherever possible.

Parents and carers can contact key staff such the Class Teacher or SENCo by dialling the main administration desk and asking to make an appointment to speak with the appropriate member of staff. We encourage this rather than have Class Teachers contacted directly. The SENCo aims to deal with all enquiries via phone or face to face meeting within 48 hours of a query being raised, wherever practicable. We recognise that dealing with any issues or concerns quickly can greatly reduce the severity of any difficulties experienced or anticipated.

Intervention:

The SENCo and class teacher will jointly decide upon the action needed based on individual need and previous assessment. Types of action/provision/intervention may include:

- Different learning materials
- Specialist equipment
- Inclusion in targeted SEN groups for individual or small group support programs
- Individual targeted support, specific Individual Plan or One Plan,
- Access to support services for specific assessments, advice and strategies.

Intervention strategies and / or resources employed by the school include:

- Toe by Toe
- 1st Class@number
- Social and emotional well-being support
- Springboard

- Speech Link/Language Link

Each project is targeted at particular groups of children and run by support staff working under the direction of the SENCo and/or class teacher. The primary aim of these projects is to raise the achievement of targeted groups and develop individual levels of self-esteem through the delivery of a structured and regular teaching programme. Further details of these projects can be obtained from the school SENCo.

Documentation required:

- Targeted Support form/SEN Support register form signed by parent(s)/ carer(s)
- Individual pupil tracking sheet
- Intervention programme involvement, showing targets and impact of intervention
- A One Plan – this should only record that which is different to or additional to the differentiated curriculum
- Registered on St Augustine's SEN Support Register
- Details of specialist referrals and assessments

Resources for SEN provision.

Special Needs materials are located in classrooms and intervention strategies designed to develop learning in specifically targeted such as phonics recognition, independent learning skills, literacy and numeracy skills are located within class teachers SEN Files.

SECTION 14 : DEALING WITH COMPLAINTS

Please refer to our school [Complaints policy](#) for details of how to make a complaint. We do our best to work collaboratively with pupils and parents within an active listening culture. This keeps the need for complaint to a minimum, but we seek to learn from any justified negative feedback, using it to help us to refine our practice, as appropriate.

SECTION 15: BULLYING

In line with the Anti-Bullying Alliance's view, we define bullying as 'The repetitive hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power.' We recognize that the bullying of children or young people who have SEND can be subtly different, in that the victim may have particular difficulties in one or any combination of the following areas:

- perceiving
- feeling
- articulating
- disclosing

Bullying of children with SEND can be exploitative of those features of the child's condition or 'difference,' targeting low social resilience linked to that difference, or in some cases, exploiting what can be markedly lower levels of emotional immaturity. At St Augustine's, we recognise the importance of being a 'telling school,' taking every report of bullying very seriously. We appreciate that best practice involves:

Communication about bullying being open, effective, structured and involving all parties as well as parents/carers. We recognize that by working to maintain open, authentic communication with learners who have SEND, we give our community the best possible chance of creating an empathetic culture of respect, in which bullying is not tolerated and where all learners can feel safe. Where children with SEND are questioned about bullying, we know the importance of using a range of techniques to ensure that the questions are properly understood and learner responses captured accurately.

Anticipation – for example discovering when, where and by whom bullying can take place via carefully structured interviews or questionnaires. Armed with this information, we can take steps to prevent it. We support formal systems of inquiry. Prevention comes in a range of formats in St Augustine's, such as via the development of active teacher and peer support, the building of social skills and resilience in circle time sessions and a wealth of whole community drives to build ethos

Response – we aim to make this both timely and clearly graduated

Our Behaviour and Discipline Policy can be found here. Here we set out the steps that are taken to ensure and mitigate the risk of bullying of vulnerable learners. We aim to teach the whole school the importance of inclusion, and that we are all different in our own unique way, made in the image of God.

We safeguard the needs of pupils with SENs, promote independence and build resilience in their learning in a range of ways. These include:

- *The use of support staff*
- *Social and emotional support, through a trained member of staff*
- *Social stories*

SECTION 16: APPENDICES

1. Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 – 25 years, para 6.28 – 6.35 (DfE, July 2014)
2. [Darlington Local Authority's Local Offer](#)
3. [Our school SEN Information Report \(and Contribution to the Local Offer\)](#)
4. Regulation 51, Part 3, section 69(3)(a) of the Children and Families Act, 2014
5. Other key agencies who regularly work in partnership with us to support families and pupils:
Speech and Language Therapists
Information, Advice and Support service (formerly Parent Partnership)
Education Psychologists
CAHMS

- Darlington Association on Disability
6. [St. Augustine's RC Primary Admissions Policy](#)
 7. ['Supporting Children in School with Medical Conditions,' Carmel Education Trust website](#)
 8. 'Supporting Children in School with Medical Conditions,' DfE May 2014 - www.sendgateway.org.uk
 9. 'Intimate Care Policy,' 2015 Carmel Education Trust
 10. Accessibility Plan
 11. *You can contact the school and or SENCo via office@staugustinesacademy.org.uk ;. If you prefer to ring, then please contact us via main reception on 01325 380819*