



SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) POLICY

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Policy Statement

Moor Park School is committed to providing an inclusive, nurturing and ambitious learning environment in which every pupil is known, valued and supported to flourish.

We recognise that some pupils may require additional or different provision to access learning, participate fully in school life and achieve their potential. We are committed to identifying needs at the earliest opportunity and providing appropriate, proportionate and effective support.

This policy sets out how Moor Park School identifies, supports and monitors pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), working in close partnership with pupils, parents, staff and relevant external professionals.

Aims and Objectives

Our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) policy aims to ensure our school fully implements national legislation and guidance regarding pupils with SEND. It aims to set out how our school will:



- Ensure early identification of pupils with SEND
- Support and make provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
- Provide pupils with SEND access to all aspects of school life
- Help pupils with SEND fulfil their aspirations and achieve their best whilst in school,
- Help pupils with SEND become confident, independent individuals
- Communicate with pupils with SEND and their parents or carers, and involve them in discussions and decisions about support and provision for the pupil
- Explain the roles and responsibilities of everyone involved in providing for pupils with SEND
- Communicate with, and involve, pupils with SEND and their parents or carers in discussions and decisions about support and provision for the pupil
- Make sure the SEND policy is understood and implemented consistently by all staff
- Help pupils with SEND make a successful transition into their chosen Senior School
- Regularly review the effectiveness of SEND provision

Vision and Values

At Moor Park, we value each pupil as an individual and celebrate diversity within our school community. We will provide all pupils with access to a broad and balanced curriculum. We focus on creating an inclusive, kind, respectful environment with a sense of belonging, where provision is tailored to the needs and abilities of pupils, no matter how varied. We have high expectations for all pupils and remain committed to making sure all our pupils have the chance to thrive and support them to meet their full potential.

Legislative and Regulatory Framework

This policy and information report is based on the statutory Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice: 0-25 years (2015) and the following legislation:

- **Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014**, which sets out schools' responsibilities for pupils with SEND.
- **The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014**, which set out local authorities' and schools' responsibilities for Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans, SEN Co-ordinators (SENCOs) and the Special Educational Needs (SEN) information report.
- The **Equality Act 2010** (section 20), which sets out the school's duties to make reasonable adjustments for pupils with disabilities.
- The **Public Sector Equality Duty** (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010), which set out the school's responsibilities to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation; and advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic (which includes having a disability) and those who don't share it.
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (current edition)
- Data Protection Act 2018/UK GDPR
- The **School Admissions Code and Policy**, which sets out the school's obligation to admit all pupils whose Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan names the school, and its duty not to disadvantage unfairly children with a disability or with special educational needs.



Categories of Need

The four broad areas of need identified in the SEND Code of Practice are:

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

These categories are used to guide planning and individual pupils may present with needs across more than one area.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

At our school, we strive to create an inclusive teaching environment that offers all pupils, no matter their needs and abilities, a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum. We are committed to offering all pupils the chance to thrive and fulfil their aspirations. We will achieve this by making reasonable adjustments to teaching, the curriculum and the school environment to make sure that pupils with SEND are included in all aspects of school life.

Definitions (Taken from the SEND Code of Practice)

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

They have a **learning difficulty or disability** if they have:

- A significantly greater difficulty in learning than most others of the same age, or
- A disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools

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

Disability

Pupils are considered to have a **disability** if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to do normal daily activities. The school will make reasonable adjustments for pupils with disabilities, so that they are not at a substantial disadvantage compared with their peers.

Roles and Responsibilities

The SENCO

The Head of Learning Support and SENCO at our school is **Anthony O'Connor** who can be contacted via email at ado@moorpark.org.uk or by telephone on 01584 872342.

The SENCO will:



- Inform any parents that their child may have SEN and then liaise with them about the pupil's needs and any provision made;
- Work with the Headteacher and SEN Governor to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision in the school;
- Hold day-to-day responsibility for the operation of this SEND policy and the co-ordination of specific provision made to support individual pupils with SEN, including those who have EHC plans;
- Provide professional guidance to colleagues and liaise and work with staff, parents and other agencies to make sure that pupils with SEN receive appropriate support and high-quality teaching;
- Advise on the graduated approach to providing SEN support and differentiated teaching methods appropriate for individual pupils;
- Coordinate assessments, interventions and reviews;
- Support parents of SEND pupils throughout their school journey;
- Advise on the deployment of the school's delegated budget and other resources to meet pupils' needs effectively;
- Be the point of contact for external agencies, especially the local authority (LA) and its support services, and work with external agencies to ensure that appropriate provision is provided.
- Liaise with potential next providers of education, to ensure that the pupil and their parents are informed about options and that a smooth transition is planned;
- When a pupil moves to a different school or institution, make sure that all relevant information about a pupil's SEN and the provision for them are sent to the appropriate authority, school or institution in a timely manner;
- Work with the Headteacher and school Governors to make sure the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements;
- Make sure the school keeps its records of all pupils with SEND up to date and accurate;
- With the Headteacher, monitor to identify any staff who have specific training needs regarding SEN, and incorporate this into the school's plan for continuous professional development;
- With the Headteacher, regularly review and evaluate the breadth and impact of the SEND support the school offers or can access;
- Prepare and review information for inclusion in the school's SEN information report and any updates to this policy;
- With the Headteacher and teaching staff, identify any patterns in the school's identification of SEN, both within the school and, in comparison with national data, and use these to reflect on and reinforce the quality of teaching.

The Governing Body

The governing board is responsible for making sure the following duties are carried out, though the duties can be delegated to a committee or an individual:

- Ensure the SEND policy complies with relevant legal and regulatory frameworks and is reviewed annually to ensure continued compliance;
- Co-operate with the Local Authority in reviewing the provision that is available locally and developing the local offer;



- Make all reasonable adjustments to make sure that every pupil with SEND gets the support they need;
- Inform parents when the school is making special educational provision for their child (at Wave3 and 4);
- Make sure that the school has arrangements in place to support any pupils with medical conditions;
- Provide access to a broad and balanced curriculum;
- Have a systematic approach to identifying and responding to SEND;
- Record accurately and keep up to date the provision made for pupils with SEND;
- Publish information on the school website about how the school is implementing its SEND policy, in a SEN information report;
- Publish information about the arrangements for the admission of disabled children, the steps taken to prevent disabled children being treated less favourably than others, the facilities provided to assist access of disabled children, and the school's accessibility plans;
- Make sure that there is a qualified teacher designated as SENCO for the school and that the key responsibilities of the role are set out, and monitor the effectiveness of how these are carried out;
- Determine their approach to using their resources to support the progress of pupils with SEND.
- Monitor the quality and impact of SEND provision;
- Promote an inclusive culture within the school community.

The Headteacher

The Headteacher will:

- Work with the SENCO and SEND Link Governor to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision within the school;
- Work with the SENCO and school Governors to make sure the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 regarding reasonable adjustments and access arrangements;
- Have overall responsibility for, and awareness of, the provision for pupils with SEND, and their progress;
- Have responsibility for monitoring the school's notional SEND budget and any additional funding allocated by the Local Authority to support individual pupils;
- Ensure the SENCO has enough time to carry out their duties;
- Retain an overview of the needs of the current cohort of pupils on the SEND register;
- Advise the Local Authority when a pupil needs an EHC needs assessment, or when an EHC plan needs an early review;
- With the SENCO, monitor to identify any staff who have specific training needs regarding SEN, and incorporate this into the school's plan for continuous professional development;
- With the SENCO, regularly review and evaluate the breadth and impact of the SEND support the school offers or can access, and co-operate with the Local Authority in reviewing the provision that is available locally and in developing the local offer;
- With the SENCO and teaching staff, identify any patterns in the school's identification of SEN, both within the school and in comparison, with national data, and use these to reflect on and reinforce the quality of teaching.

Class teachers

Each class/form/subject teacher is responsible for:



- Planning and providing Quality First teaching that is differentiated to meet pupil needs through a graduated approach;
- The progress and development of every pupil in their class;
- Working closely with any Teaching Assistants/specialists to plan and assess the impact of support and interventions, and consider how they can be linked to classroom teaching;
- Working with the SENCO to review each pupil's progress and development, decide on any changes to provision and communicate concerns promptly if they arise;
- Ensuring they follow this SEND policy and the SEN information report;
- Contribute to review meetings;
- Communicating with parents to:
 - i. Set clear outcomes and review progress towards them;
 - ii. Discuss the activities and support that will help achieve the set outcomes;
 - iii. Listen to the parents' concerns and agree their aspirations for the pupil.

Parents or Carers

Parents or Carers should inform the school if they have any concerns about their child's progress or development. Admissions forms must be completed accurately and honestly.

Parents or Carers of a pupil on the SEND register will always be given the opportunity to provide information and express their views about the pupil's SEND and the support provided. They will be invited to participate in discussions and decisions about this support. They will be:

- Invited to meetings to review the provision that is in place for their child;
- Asked to provide information about the impact of SEN support outside school, home life and any changes in the pupil's needs;
- Given the opportunity to share their concerns and, with school staff, agree their aspirations for the pupil.

The school will consider the views of the Parent or Carer in any decisions made about the pupil within reasonable parameters.

The Pupil

Pupils will be given the opportunity to provide information and express their views about their SEND and the support provided. They will be invited to participate in discussions and decisions about this support. This might involve the pupil:

- Explaining their strengths and difficulties;
- Contributing to setting targets or outcomes;
- Attending review meetings;
- Giving feedback on the effectiveness of interventions.

The pupil's views will be taken into account in making decisions that affect them, whenever possible.



Identification of Need

SEND needs may be identified through:

- baseline assessments
- teacher observations
- progress monitoring
- parental concerns
- previous school records
- screening assessments
- reports from specialists
- pastoral observations
- pupil voice

SEN Information Report

The school publishes a SEN information report which sets out how this policy is implemented in the school. The information report will be updated annually, and as soon as possible after any changes to the information it contains.

Our Approach to SEND Support

Identifying pupils with SEND and assessing their needs

We will assess each pupil's current skills and levels of attainment when they are new to the school. This will build on information from previous settings. We will also consider any evidence that the pupil may have a disability and if so, what reasonable adjustments the school are able to make.

Class teachers will regularly assess the progress of all pupils and identify any whose progress:

- Is significantly slower than that of their peers starting from the same baseline
- Fails to match or better their previous rate of progress
- Fails to close the attainment gap between them and their peers
- Widens the attainment gap

This may include progress in areas other than attainment, for example, wider development or social needs. Slow progress and low attainment will not automatically mean a pupil is recorded as having SEN.

Potential short-term causes of impact on behaviour or performance will be considered, such as a change in family circumstances or bereavement. Staff will also take particular care in identifying and assessing SEN for pupils whose first language is not English.

When deciding whether the pupil needs special educational provision, we will start with the desired outcomes, including the expected progress and attainment, and the views and the wishes of the pupil and their parents. We will use this to determine the support that is needed and whether we can provide it by adapting our core offer, or whether something different or additional is needed.



If a pupil is joining our school, and:

- Their previous setting has already identified that they have SEN or have had interventions/assessments
- They are known to external agencies
- They have an education, health and care plan (EHCP), Moor Park will endeavour to collect all relevant information prior to the pupil starting at Moor Park.

Consulting and involving pupils and parents

The school will put the pupil and their parents at the heart of all decisions made about special educational provision.

When we are aiming to identify whether a pupil needs special education provision, we will have a discussion with the parents. These conversations will make sure that:

- Everyone develops a good understanding of the pupil's areas of strength and difficulty
- We consider any concerns the parents have
- Everyone understands the agreed outcomes sought for the child
- Everyone is clear on next steps

Notes of these early discussions will be shared with their parents. Where appropriate, the child will also be involved as Pupil Voice is key.

The graduated approach to SEN support

Once a pupil has been identified as having SEN, we will take action to remove any barriers to learning and put effective provision in place. This support will be delivered through successive rounds of a 4-part cycle (Assess, Plan, Do and Review), known as the graduated approach.

Where the pupil's needs cannot be adequately met with in-house expertise, staff will consider involving an external specialist as soon as possible.

Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan

Pupils who need more support than is available through the school's school-based SEN provision may be entitled to an EHC plan. The plan is a legal document that describes the needs of the pupil, the provision that will be put in place, and the outcomes sought.

Evaluating the effectiveness of SEN provision

We evaluate the effectiveness of provision for pupils with SEN by:

- Tracking pupils' progress
- Carrying out the review stage of the graduated approach
- Monitoring by the SENCOs
- Holding annual reviews for pupils with EHC plans
- Getting feedback from the pupil and their parents



Expertise and Training of Staff

Training will regularly be provided to teaching and support staff.

Links with External Professional Agencies

As a non-specialist school, we recognise that Moor Park won't be able to meet all the needs of every pupil. Whenever necessary the school will work with external support services such as:

- Speech and Language Therapists
- Specialist Teachers or Support Services
- Educational Psychologists
- Occupational Therapists, Speech and Language Therapists or Physiotherapists
- General Practitioners or Paediatricians
- School Nurses
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- Education Welfare Officers
- Social Services
- Local Authorities
- Safeguarding Agencies where relevant

Admissions

Moor Park is committed to promoting equality and to ensuring that no applicant is treated less favourably on the grounds of disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, or any other protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010.

The School does not select pupils by academic ability alone. Admission is subject to the School being satisfied that it can meet a child's educational, medical, emotional and behavioural needs.

Monitoring and Evaluation Arrangements

Evaluating the effectiveness of the SEND policy

We are constantly looking for ways to improve our SEND policy. We will do this by evaluating whether we are meeting our objectives.

We will evaluate how effective our SEND provision is with regards to:

- All staff's awareness of pupils with SEND at the start of the academic year
- Pupils' progress and attainment once they have been identified as having SEND
- Whether pupils with SEND feel safe, valued, included and engaged in the school community
- SEND pupils' attendance
- Intervention outcomes
- Review meetings inviting comments and feedback from staff, pupils and their parents



- Senior leadership oversight and support

Monitoring the policy

This policy will be reviewed by The Head of Learning Support **every year**. It will also be updated when any new legislation, requirements or changes in procedure occur during the year.

It will be approved by the Governing Board.

Safeguarding

The school recognises that pupils with SEND may be more vulnerable to bullying, exclusion or safeguarding risks.

All safeguarding procedures apply equally to pupils with SEND, with reasonable adjustments made to communication and support where necessary.

Record Keeping and Confidentiality

The school maintains accurate SEND records in accordance with GDPR.

Links with Other Policies and Documents

This policy links to the following documents

- SEN Information Report
- The Local Offer <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/>
- The Local Offer <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/social-care-and-support/local-offer-special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-send/>
- Accessibility Plan
- Behaviour Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Admissions Policy
- Curriculum Policy
- Administering Medication in Schools Policy