

# Herne Junior School

## Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Policy

### *Knowing Every Child – Inspiring Every Mind – Achieving Every Day.*

The SEND Team comprises of **all** the staff and is led by:

- Erika Marshall- SENCo .

**“All children and young people are entitled to an appropriate education, one that is appropriate to their needs, promotes high standards and the fulfilment of potential. This should enable them to:**

- **Achieve their best**
- **Become confident individuals living fulfilling lives and**
- **Make a successful transition into adulthood, whether into employment, further or higher education or training.”**

**(SEND Code Of Practice 2015, 6.1 p.92)**

At Herne Junior School it is our belief that all children have an equal right to a full and rounded education which will enable them to achieve their full potential. We use our best endeavours to secure special educational provision for pupils for whom this is required, that is ‘additional to and different from’ that provided within the differentiated curriculum. This is to better respond to the four areas of need identified in the SEND Code of Practice 2015.

- Communication and Interaction
- Cognition and Learning
- Social, mental and emotional health
- Sensory/physical

#### **Defining SEND**

A child or young person has special educational needs if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her. By learning difficulty it is meant that the child or young person has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or they have 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. Taken from SEND Code of Practice (CoP) 2015 – introduction xiii,xiv,xv pp. 15 - 16

This SEND Policy, in conjunction with our SEND Information Report, details how at Herne Junior, we will do our best to ensure that the necessary provision is made for any pupil who has special educational needs and that those needs are known to all who are likely to work with them. We will ensure that teachers are able to identify and provide for those pupils with special educational needs, allowing them to join in all school activities, wherever possible, together with pupils who do not have special educational needs.

## **Aims and Objectives**

The aims of this policy are to ensure that the school is able:

- To identify, at the earliest possible opportunity, barriers to learning and participation for pupils with SEND
- To ensure that every child experiences success in their learning and achieves to their highest possible standard
- To create an environment that meets the special educational needs of each pupil in order that they achieve their learning potential and have the opportunity, where possible, to engage in activities alongside pupils who do not have SEND
- To request, monitor and respond to parent/carers and pupils views in order to attain high levels of satisfaction and to work together in a positive way.
- To make clear the expectations of all partners in the process
- To ensure a high level of staff expertise to meet the various needs of pupils within Herne Junior School, through well targeted continuing professional development
- To work in co-operative and productive partnerships with the Local Education Authority and other external agencies, to ensure there is a multi-professional approach to meeting the needs of vulnerable learners

## **Inclusion Statement**

We strive to make every effort to achieve maximum inclusion of all pupils whilst meeting pupils' individual needs. This policy recognises the entitlement of all pupils to a balanced, broadly based curriculum. Our SEND policy reinforces the need for inclusive teaching. The Governing Body will ensure that appropriate provision will be made for all pupils with SEND.

Through appropriate curricular provision, we respect the fact that children:

- Have different educational and social and emotional needs and aspirations
- Require different strategies for learning, this includes the use of additional resources
- Acquire, assimilate and communicate information at different rates
- Need a range of different teaching approaches and experiences

Wherever possible, we do not withdraw children from the classroom during literacy and numeracy sessions. There are times though when, to maximise learning, we ask the children to work in small groups, or in a one-to-one situation outside the classroom.

## **The Role of The SENCo**

- Overseeing the day-to-day operation of the school's SEND policy
- Co-ordinating provision for children with SEND
- Over- seeing the deployment of the LSA team.
- Timetabling the LSA team and the various interventions we run at Herne Junior
- Co-ordinating all 1:1 staff.

- Performance Management input for all LSA's
- Liaising with and advising fellow teachers
- Overseeing the records of all children with SEND
- Liaising with parents / carers of children with SEND
- Contributing to the in-service training of staff
- Liaising with the local Infant School to ensure a smooth transition between Years 2 and 3.
- Liaising with local Secondary schools so that support is provided for Year 6 pupils as they prepare to transfer
- Liaising with external agencies including the LEA's support and educational psychology services, health and social services, behaviour support, local Outreach providers, Specialist teachers, YCP team, EMTAS and voluntary bodies
- Co-ordinating and developing school based strategies for the identification and review of children with SEND
- Making regular visits to classrooms to monitor the progress of children on the SEND Register
- Monitoring the effectiveness of the interventions we offer
- Writing various requests (i.e. EHCP paperwork) and making referrals for children.

### **Identification, Assessment and Provision**

Provision for children with special educational needs is a matter for the whole school. The governing body, the school's head teacher, the SENCo and all other members of staff, particularly class teachers and learning support assistants, have important day-to-day responsibilities.

### ***Monitoring Children's Progress***

Children with SEND are identified by the following routes, all of which are part of the overall approach to monitoring pupil progress:

- Class teachers and other staff are continually aware of children's learning. Progress of a child who is a cause for concern, despite Quality First Teaching, may be characterized by:
  - Learning at a significantly slower pace than that of their peers starting from the same baseline
  - fails to match or better the child's previous rate of progress
  - fails to close the attainment gap between the child and their peers
- Parents / carers sometimes ask us to look more closely at their child's learning. All parental requests are taken seriously
- The progress of every child is monitored at termly intervals
- We also look closely at a child's fine and gross motor skills and seek advice where necessary

If progress remains a cause for concern class teachers will consult the SENCo. This review might lead to the conclusion that the pupil requires help over and above that which is normally available within the particular class or subject.

### ***Assessing Children***

The SENCo may undertake a range of assessments with children, or delegate assessments to the LSA team (who may be more familiar with the child, e.g. the class LSA). Depending on the nature of the concern, the SENCo may refer to an external agency, and they will complete the relevant assessment. These assessments can be used to inform the teacher's own understanding and assessments of a child, or help paint a bigger picture to help determine provision required. Some causes of concern include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Shows signs of difficulty in developing literacy or mathematics skills which result in poor attainment in some curriculum areas
- Presents persistent emotional or social difficulties which are not improved by the behaviour management techniques usually employed in the school
- Has sensory or physical problems, and continues to make little or no progress, despite the provision of specialist equipment
- Has communication and / or interaction difficulties, and continues to make little or no progress
- If a child makes sufficient progress once on the register, they will be removed from the SEND register, but their progress will continue to be monitored closely

Although the school can identify special needs, and make provision to meet those needs, we are not able to offer diagnoses. Parents / carers are advised to contact their GP if they are concerned about a particular disability. As a school, we wish to work in conjunction with parents / carers.

### ***Provision***

In order to help children with special educational needs, Herne Junior will adopt a graduated response.

When any concern is initially noticed it is the responsibility of the class teacher to take steps to address the issue. This includes talking to the SENCo. Parents / carers may be consulted and a specific intervention put in place and monitored for a period of up to a term.

If the child's progress is still inadequate, the teacher and SENCo will discuss the next step for that particular child. This may include adding the child to the SEND Register. Parents/carers will again be informed and consulted. The school will record the steps taken to meet the needs of individual children through the use of an IEP (Individual Education Plan) and provision map. This may see us using specialist expertise from an outside agency, if as a school we feel that our interventions are

still not having an impact on the individual.

Reasons may include:

- Continues to make little or no progress in specific areas over a long period
- Continues working at a level substantially below that expected of children of a similar age
- Continues to have difficulty in developing literacy and mathematical skills
- Has emotional or social difficulties leading to unwanted behaviour which regularly and substantially interfere with the child's own learning or that of the class group
- Has sensory or physical needs and requires additional specialist equipment or regular advice or visits by a specialist service
- Has ongoing communication or interaction difficulties that impede the development of social relationships and cause substantial barriers to learning
- Despite having received intervention, the child continues to fall behind the level of his peers

If, despite these steps, progress is still inadequate, we will discuss the matter with an Educational Psychologist and seek advice whether or not to request an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

If, however, a child makes adequate progress they will no longer be on the register. Adequate progress can be identified as that which:

- Prevents the attainment gap between the child and his peers from widening
- Closes the attainment gap between the child and his peers
- Better the child's previous rate of progress.
- Ensures access to the full curriculum
- Demonstrates an improvement in self-help, social or personal skills
- Demonstrates improvements in the child's behaviour

### **Partnership with parents / carers**

Partnership plays a key role in enabling children and young people with SEND to achieve their potential. Parents / carers hold key information and have knowledge and experience to contribute to the shared view of a child's needs. All parents / carers of children with special educational needs will be treated as partners and given support to play an active and valued role in their child's education. At Herne Junior School, we do not make judgements and it is never our wish to make parents / carers feel uncomfortable and as if their child's needs are a fault. At all stages of the special needs process, the school keeps parents/carers fully informed and involved taking into account their wishes, feelings and knowledge. We encourage parents/carers to make an active contribution to their child's education and have regular meetings to share the progress of their child. We inform the parents /carers of any outside intervention, and share the process of decision-making by providing clear information relating to the education of their child. Parents / carers always have access to the SENCo through a school email address and are encouraged to arrange a meeting should they wish.

## **The use of outside agencies**

These services may become involved if a child continues to make little or no progress despite considerable input and adaptations. They will use the child's records in order to establish which strategies have already been employed and which targets have previously been set.

The external specialist may act in an advisory capacity, or provide additional specialist assessment or be involved in teaching the child directly. The child's Individual targets will set out strategies for supporting the child's progress. These will be implemented, at least in part, in the normal classroom setting. The delivery of the interventions recorded in the IEP continues to be the responsibility of the class teacher and the LSA.

## **Allocation of resources**

The SENCo is responsible for the operational management of the specified and agreed resourcing for special needs provision within the school, including the provision for children with Education Health and Care plans.

The SENCo informs the governing body of how the funding allocated to support special educational needs has been employed.

## **The role of the governing body**

The Governing body challenges the school and its members to secure necessary provision for any pupil identified as having special educational needs. They ask probing questions to ensure all teachers are aware of the importance of providing for all children and ensure that funds and resources are used effectively. On an annual basis the Governing body are provided a report by the SENCo.

## **Monitoring and evaluation**

The SENCo monitors the movement of children within the SEND system in school and provides staff and governors with regular summaries of the impact of the policy on the practice of the school. The SENCo is involved in supporting teachers and in drawing up Individual Education Plans for children. The SENCo and the Leadership Team hold regular meetings to review the work of the school in this area. In addition the SENCo and the named governor with responsibility for special needs also hold regular meetings.

At Herne Junior School we want to work together, with parents / carers and children to ensure that all children have a voice. ***Please feel free to contact the school if you have any questions regarding SEND.***

**FOR DETAILS OF OUR SEND LOCAL OFFER, PLEASE REFER TO OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE: ABOUT US/SEND LOCAL OFFER**

**Reviewed and updated policy: January 2020. Review: December 2022  
Mrs E. Marshall (SENCo) and Mrs M. Page (Governor)  
Ratified by FGB: 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020**