

# Morpeth First School Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Policy

"The purpose of education for all children is the same; the goals are the same. But help that individual children need in progressing towards them will be different. Whereas for some, the road they travel towards the goal is smooth and easy; for others it is fraught with obstacles." (Warnock Report, 1.4)

## MISSION STATEMENT

Morpeth First School seeks to provide a high quality education for all pupils according to their needs, and to develop attitudes of mutual respect and responsibility.

### General Objective

At Morpeth First School the emphasis is on a whole school approach. All staff accept responsibility for providing all children with realistic learning goals in a broad-based, appropriate curriculum. We believe in nurturing and developing the educational, social, emotional, cultural and spiritual aspects by curriculum design and teaching approaches. The National Curriculum Council stated that participation in the National Curriculum by pupils with special educational needs is most likely to be achieved by encouraging good practice for all pupils and that the majority of pupils with SEND simply require work to be suitably presented and differentiated to match their need.

### We therefore intend . . .

- ❖ To have regard to the Code of Practice on the identification and assessment of special educational needs.
- ❖ To follow the guidelines laid down by Northumberland County Council Education Authority.
- ❖ To work in partnership with the child, parent/carers, all staff, governors and outside agencies.

- ❖ That class teachers will use a range of differentiation to provide effective learning opportunities for all pupils.
- ❖ Where a child is identified as not making adequate progress provision that is additional to or different from that provided as part of the school's usual differentiated curriculum will be given.
- ❖ To recognise the importance of early identification and if the child's difficulties prove less responsive to the provision made by the school, then an early start can be made in considering the additional help the child may need.
- ❖ Where a child is identified as having special educational needs a Pupil Passport will be drawn up outlining each individual child's needs. Realistic targets will be set and these will be reviewed/evaluated regularly and involve the child, parent, teacher and all support services.
- ❖ Enhance self-esteem by setting appropriate targets and celebrating them when they are achieved.
- ❖ To use a variety of complementary approaches to support the class teacher and child - differentiation, 1-1, group, whole class, within the class or outside the classroom when appropriate.
- ❖ To include the child within the class, wherever and whenever practicable.
- ❖ Endeavour to use all resources appropriately and efficiently.
- ❖ Make full use of all the support agencies that have been made available through the LEA.

## Areas of Need

Children will have needs and requirements which may fall into at least one of four areas, many children will have inter-related needs. The areas of need are:-

- ❖ communication and interaction
- ❖ cognition and learning
- ❖ social, emotional and mental health
- ❖ sensory and/or physical
- ❖ medical

## Identification and Assessment

"The law says that a child has special educational needs if he or she has:

- ❖ a learning difficulty (ie a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children of the same age, or a disability which makes it difficult to use the educational facilities generally provided locally); and if that learning difficulty calls for
- ❖ special educational provision (ie provision additional to, or different from, that made generally for children of the same age in local schools).

Whether or not a child has SEND will therefore depend both on the individual and on local circumstances. It may be entirely consistent with the law for a child to be said to have special educational needs in one school but not in another. (Excellence for all Children, DfEE, October 1997).

Therefore the importance of early identification, assessment and provision for any child who may have special educational needs cannot be over emphasised. The earlier action is taken, the more responsive the child is likely to be, and the more readily can intervention be made without undue disruption to the organisation of the school, including the delivery of the curriculum for that particular child. If a

difficulty proves transient the child will subsequently be able to learn and progress normally. If the child's difficulties prove less responsive to provision made by the school, then an early start can be made in considering the additional provision that may be needed to support the child's progress.

Any of the following may trigger a concern. The child and parent/carer are involved throughout.

- ❖ Parents/carer
- ❖ Child
- ❖ Class teacher assessment
- ❖ Any of the support services mentioned later
- ❖ Records - transferred from another school
- ❖ Base line assessments
- ❖ SAT results
- ❖ In-house testing and assessment
- ❖ Pupil tracking

In identifying children who may have special educational needs we can measure children's progress by referring to:

- ❖ their performance monitored by the teacher as part of ongoing observation and assessment
- ❖ the outcomes from baseline assessment results
- ❖ their progress against the objectives specified in the National Curriculum. † the end of a key stage
- ❖ standardised screening or assessment tools.

### **English as an Additional Language**

The identification and assessment of the special educational needs of children whose first language is not English, requires particular care. Lack of competence in English must not be equated with learning difficulties as understood in the Code of Practice. We would look carefully at all aspects of a child's performance in different subjects to establish whether the problems they have in the classroom are

due to limitations in their command of the language that is used there or arise from special educational needs.

### **School Model of Assessment and Provision**

Where progress is not adequate, it will be necessary to take some additional or different action to enable the pupil to learn more effectively. Whatever the level of pupils' difficulties the key test of how far their learning needs are being met is whether they are making adequate progress.

Adequate progress can be defined in a number of ways ie:-

- ❖ closes the attainment gap between the child and their peers
- ❖ prevents the attainment gap growing wider
- ❖ is similar to that of peers starting from the same attainment baseline, but less than that of the majority of peers
- ❖ matches or betters 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

If a child's progress is inadequate the class teacher will provide interventions that are **additional to** or **different from** those provided as part of the usual differentiated curriculum offer and strategies.

The triggers for intervention could be the teacher's or others' concern, underpinned by evidence, about a child who despite receiving differentiated learning opportunities:

- ❖ makes little or no progress when teaching approaches are targeted particularly in a child's identified areas of weakness
- ❖ shows signs of difficulty in developing literacy or mathematical skills which result in poor attainment in some curriculum areas

- ❖ presents persistent emotional or behavioural difficulties which are not ameliorated by the positive 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 despite the provision of a differentiated curriculum.

Following a meeting to review a child's targets and in consultation with parents a decision may be taken to request help from external support services, both those provided by the LEA and by outside agencies.

The triggers for this could be that, despite receiving an individualised programme and/or concentrated support the child:

- ❖ continues to make little or no progress in specific areas over a long period
- ❖ continues working at National Curriculum levels substantially below that expected of children of a similar age
- ❖ continues to have difficulty in developing literacy and mathematical skills
- ❖ has emotional or behavioural difficulties which substantially and regularly interfere with the child's own learning or that of the class group, despite having an individualised behaviour management programme
- ❖ has sensory or physical needs, and requires 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.

The interventions are a means of matching special educational provision to the child's needs, and are therefore part of the continuous and systematic cycle of planning, action and review within our school to enable all children to learn and progress.

## Education, Health and Care Plans

From September 2014, as part of the new Children and Families Bill, the government transformed the system for children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND), including those who are disabled, so that services consistently support the best outcomes for them.

The bill will extend the SEND system from birth to 25, giving children, young people and their parents, greater control and choice in decisions and ensuring needs are properly met. It takes forward the reform programme set out in '**Support and aspiration: a new approach to special education needs and disability - progress and next steps**' including:

- replacing old statements with a new birth- to-25 education, health and care plan
- extending rights and protections to young people in further education and training
- offering families personal budgets so that they have more control over the support they need
- improving cooperation between all the services that support children and their families, particularly requiring local authorities and health authorities to work together
- Requiring local authorities to involve children, young people and parents in reviewing and developing provision for those with special educational needs
- Making it clearly available to parent's what types of support are available for them and their child.

The special needs reforms will implement a new approach which seeks to join up help across education, health and care from birth to 25. Help will be offered at the earliest point, with children and young people with special needs and their parents or carers fully involved in decisions about their support and what they want to achieve. This will help lead to better outcomes and more efficient ways of working.

The vision for children and young people with special needs should be the same as for all children and young people—that they achieve well in their early years, at school and in college; lead happy and fulfilled lives; and have choice and control.

**The Children and Families Bill** takes forward a commitment to improve services for vulnerable children and young people and to support their families. It includes clauses on special education needs (SEND) which aim to reform the SEND system. The clauses include:

- A new duty for joint commissioning which will require local authorities and health bodies to work in partnership when arranging provision for children and young people with SEND.
- A requirement on local authorities to publish clearly what services they expect to be available for children and young people with SEND.
- A duty on local authorities to draw up Education, Health and Care plans.
- A requirement on all local authorities to prepare a personal budget for children or young people with an EHC Plan if asked to do so by the child's parent or the young person.

An EHC Plan will replace old Statements of SEND and Learning Difficulty Assessments. The plan will be a legal document describing a young person's needs, the provision to meet those needs and the suitable educational placement. Government has stated that the Plan must be person centred, focusing on the needs and aspirations of the child. EHC Plans will continue into further education and training, and for some young people up to the age of 25.

Plans should be focused on the outcomes an individual child or young person is expected to achieve. Any targets must be specific and set out what support is needed to achieve these outcomes. Plans should be concise and positive and should reflect the views of the child or young person.

The Department for Education has stated that a child or young person who currently has a Statement of SEND will have an EHC Plan. Guidance says that EHC Plans should be issued when the local authority considers the special educational needs of the child cannot be reasonably provided for with resources normally available to mainstream early years provision, school and post 16 institutions. As the Bill and Code of Practice currently stands, children and young people with primarily health or care needs will not be issued with a plan, unless these needs impact their education.

Section 7 of the SEND Code of Practice sets out key points for the way assessments should be carried out. These include:

- The views of children, young people and their families must be sought.
- Disruption to families should be minimized. This includes avoiding multiple assessments and appointments. There should be a 'tell it once' approach so that families do not have to repeat the same information to different professionals.
- Families should be provided with impartial information, advice and support. In the case of young people over the age of 16, a separate service of impartial information, advice and support should be available to them although it is still expected that families, with the young person's consent, play a significant role.
- The assessment process should be carried out in a 'timely' manner and it should not take longer than 20 weeks to issue an Education, Health and Care Plan.

School will provide 15 hours worth of funded support themselves to support children and young people who have special educational needs but do not have Education, Health and Care plans. If we feel we are not able to meet the child's needs effectively with this funding only we can apply to the local LEA for STAR (Short Term Additional Resource) funding (previously known as Top-up funding). This is banded levels of funding which is used to offer additional support for a child's needs.

All families whose child has an EHC plan will have a right to request a **personal budget**. The personal budget will allow young people or parents to buy support identified in the plan directly, rather than relying on the local authority.

Parents or young people will be given a choice of whether they want to take control of the personal budget by an agency managing the funds on their behalf or by receiving direct payments, where they can purchase and manage the provision themselves.

It is a requirement for the local authority to publish information about the provision it expects will be available for children and young people with SEND aged 0 - 25 years, both within and outside their local area.

This will include information about:

- Education, health and care provision for children and young people with SEND (which should include information about its quality and the destinations/outcomes achieved by those who use it)
- Arrangements for identifying and assessing children and young people's SEND, including arrangements for requesting an EHC needs assessment
- Other education provision (educational provision outside of schools or colleges such as sports or arts provision)
- Training provision, including Apprenticeships
- Arrangements for travel to and from schools, post-16 institutions and early years providers
- Support to help children and young people in moving between phases of education (for example from early years to school, from primary to secondary) and to prepare for adulthood
- Sources of information, advice and support in the local authority's area relating to SEND including information provided under clause 32 of the Children and Families Bill, forums for parents and carers, support groups, childcare and leisure activities
- Arrangements for making complaints, for the resolution of disagreements, mediation and parents' and young people's right to appeal a decision of the local authority to the tribunal.

### **Identifying pupils with Special Educational Needs**

Early identification is very important as the earlier action is taken the more responsive the child is likely to be. In Reception, end of the Foundation Stage, if a child is not making adequate progress, as defined below:

- ❖ closes the attainment gap between the child and the child's peers
- ❖ prevents the attainment gap growing wider
- ❖ is similar to that of peers starting from the same attainment baseline, but less than that of the majority of peers
- ❖ matches or betters 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 pupil's behaviour

then interventions will be made. If the intervention does not enable the child to make satisfactory progress then advice and support will be sought from external agencies.

### **Individual Target Sheet**

This will be used to plan the interventions for individual pupils.

It is the structured planning documentation of the differentiated steps and teaching requirements needed to help the student achieve identified targets.

It should focus on up to three or four key individual targets and should include information about:

- ❖ the short term targets set for or by the pupil
- ❖ the teaching strategies to be used
- ❖ the provision to be put in place
- ❖ when the plan is to be reviewed
- ❖ success and/or exit criteria
- ❖ outcomes (to be recorded when reviewed)

### **Group Intervention Plan**

When pupils in the same group, class or subject lesson have common targets and hence, common strategies a group intervention plan can be drawn up rather than producing individual documents for each child.

These documents are working documents and will be continually annotated, reviewed and monitored. However, the level of success or progress towards targets will generally be evaluated three times a year (Sept./Oct., Jan./Feb., April/May).

### **Record Keeping and Assessment**

The records kept in school are appropriate for all children, as are the National Curriculum levelling folders to compare. It is important that records for all children are accurate, yet as positive as possible. This is particularly important for children with special needs. The following tests, if

appropriate, will be used and recorded in the individual child's file. These help with the setting up of individual intervention plans and aid outside agencies as well as school in the monitoring of progress.

- ❖ 100 key words - reading/spelling
- ❖ Read Write Inc Phonics Assessments
- ❖ KS1 HFW
- ❖ White Rose Maths unit Assessments

### **Class SEND Portfolios**

This is kept by the class teacher in the classroom and highlights children who need additional support/help over and above what the class teacher would normally be doing in meeting the needs within her class. It contains Pupil Passports, Target sheets and Group Intervention Plans and any other relevant information on individual children. If the teacher is away, this information should be offered to the supply teacher.

### **Other Records**

Some teachers may keep anecdotal records, which are part of their continuous assessment.

- ❖ Mark books
- ❖ Individual records of support work kept by the support teacher
- ❖ Records of children who are working on specific programmes
- ❖ Reading interview sheets
- ❖ Examples of work.

Most of these records are part of continuous assessment. It is also important that results of assessments are carefully scrutinised to see if they highlight a child's difficulties or provide information about how to proceed with support.

Records should always provide precise positive information about what a child can do, and about what steps are being taken to help him make progress. They should be passed on at the end of the academic year. Information is vital for the teacher to decide what is the next step forward and of great importance when a child is referred to an outside agency such as the School's Psychological

Service must be accessible both in terms of its location and its content to parents and all support agencies.

### **Medical Information**

The school database is updated as and when information comes into school. Any major changes are passed on to the teacher straight away. Updated class medical information is passed on to the teacher every term.

However, a medical diagnosis or a disability does not necessarily imply SEND. It is the child's educational needs rather than a medical diagnosis that must be considered. However medical conditions may have a significant impact on a child's experiences and the way they function in school and if not properly managed could hinder their access to education. Therefore, consultation and open discussion between the child's parents, the school, the school doctor or the child's GP and any specialist services providing treatment for the child will be essential to ensure that the child makes maximum progress.

### **The Role of the Support Team**

The SEND team members include the SENDCo, classroom teachers, teaching assistants and specialist support teachers.

The SEND nominated Governor, meets regularly with the SENDCo to discuss SEND issues. The team will have regard to the Code of Practice. We will work closely with and support class teachers in the early recognition, assessment and testing of children. We will work closely with parents meeting as and when necessary.

We will regularly test and set new targets (long and short term) when appropriate and work with the named children within the class, a group or 1-1 as appropriate. We will plan reviews at least three times a year with the parents, child and class teacher.

### **The role of the SENDCO**

- ❖ overseeing the day-to-day operation of the school's SEND policy
- ❖ coordinating provision for children with special educational needs
- ❖ liaising with and advising teachers
- ❖ managing learning support assistants
- ❖ overseeing the records of all children with special educational needs
- ❖ liaising with parents of children with special educational needs
- ❖ contributing to the in-service training of staff
- ❖ liaising with external agencies including the LEA's support and educational psychology services, health and social services, and voluntary bodies
- ❖ attend appropriate training to support the role, to disseminate to staff and to use the school development plan to implement new developments
- ❖ work closely with the nominated Special Needs Governor
- ❖ monitor, evaluate and review the special needs budget in relation to provision for individual needs and deployment of support staff.

### **Ideas to assist with the meeting of SEND**

We do need to be particularly aware of some children who have SEND. Children who learn at a slower rate than their peers, or who are developmentally delayed, so that they progress more slowly and may need some support with classroom tasks, either from the class or a support assistant/ teacher.

Children who have specific learning difficulties, often involving language tasks. This may become more apparent as the child grows older and fails to make as much progress as his/her peers. They will often require modification of some tasks and structured activities to work on specific skills. The class teacher will be given support. The child may get additional support from school or external support services.

Children with physical handicaps which affect their learning, including speech problems, impaired vision and hearing, fine and gross motor or mobility problems. These children need particularly careful monitoring, to check they are making good progress, but they may not necessarily need extra support. The needs of individuals with mobility problems have to be addressed when planning educational visits, and all aspects of PE and movement between the school sites.

Children who are underachieving because of behavioural difficulties and poor work attitudes. These children may have learning difficulties which may be the cause of their problems, and they will need a positive approach and careful monitoring, ideally before the problem becomes acute.

Children who are passive or withdrawn. These are easily overlooked, but may not be making acceptable progress in academic and/or social skills.

We also need to be particularly aware of new entrants, children who are absent for an extended period, children who are coping with family crises, and children who are the victims of abuse.

### **Planning the Curriculum**

It is vital that children with special needs do not have a narrow curriculum, particularly with the demands of the National Curriculum. Effective management, school ethos and the learning environment, curricular, pastoral and behaviour management arrangements can help prevent some special educational needs arising, and minimise others. Differentiation of learning activities within the curriculum framework will help us meet the learning needs of all children.

The National Curriculum Inclusion Statement emphasises the importance of providing effective learning opportunities for all pupils and offers three key principles for inclusion:

- ❖ setting suitable learning challenges
- ❖ responding to pupils' diverse needs
- ❖ overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of pupils.

It is very important to realise that many children have complex, inter-connected needs and they should not be categorised or labelled. We must be aware that children's needs and difficulties can be linked to a mismatch between task demands, levels of concentration and the child's ability/disability.

The main aim is always to give children access to all aspects of the curriculum, with priorities which are

- Real - relating to the child's needs
- Relevant - so that the child sees the purpose of the activity
- Realistic - so that the child can achieve success

This means - differentiation of work by:-

1. Using a multi-level approach in the classroom with tasks matched to the individual needs of the children.
2. Breaking difficult tasks down into more manageable parts, across the curriculum.
3. More attention to the child's point of entry.
4. More variety between practical and written tasks.
5. Making use of computers, concept keyboards and cassettes.
6. Building on a child's strengths and interests, rather than dwelling on his weaknesses.
7. Modifying of worksheets and activities when necessary.
8. Being aware of the differing concentration levels of children within the class.
9. Praising and enhancing self-esteem.
10. The setting of achievable targets.
11. Effective use of additional staff, parents and other children.

### **Classroom Organisation**

It is important to ensure that this facilitates learning for all children, but particularly for those with special educational needs.

This can be achieved by:-

1. Flexible grouping arrangements, to allow children variety and the stimulus of working with different children. Children with learning difficulties benefit from mixing with their peers and must be encouraged to do so.
2. Peer support and in some cases peer group tutoring can be valuable, although its implications need to be carefully considered.
3. Parents, grandparents and other adults can provide invaluable help in the classroom with children with learning difficulties, helping to develop oracy, working with the computer, and developing individual skills. All parents of children are welcomed in school. Some of our parents have had unpleasant experiences of school themselves, and may need extra encouragement to come in.
4. Children with special needs should be encouraged to be active not passive learners, and given as much responsibility as possible for their own learning and classroom environment. It may mean that the class teacher needs to re-assess the physical class room organisation depending on size and make up of the class.

### **Managing Children**

Behavioural difficulties are usually complex. Poor work attitudes and under-achievement, poor concentration levels, miss-match of work to child, personal and home problems, lack of appropriate resources, movement around the room/school, unstructured days, constant change are some of the factors that need to be addressed.

## **Code of Conduct**

Whole school expectation by all who work in our school is that we all should accept responsibility for our own actions and learn/choose to act in an acceptable way. Children have a right to learn and staff have a right to teach.

## **Managing the classroom/resources**

Keep on the move in the classroom, and so not become too involved with individuals at the expense of the general classroom atmosphere. Discourage children from forming long queues by the teacher's desk.

Make task demands specific and realistic, so that children know exactly what is expected of them. Ensure that work is challenging but not daunting.

Decide what is the minimum amount you expect from individuals. Some children may need the work broken into small challenges. Point of entry, differentiation in work and recording are key issues to be thought about when planning the lesson. Make sure that the child understands the value of the work for him as a learner, to encourage intrinsic motivation.

Use praise and a positive approach as much as possible with all children. Give children attention for behaving well, not just for behaving badly. Negative behaviour can often be discussed privately, not in front of the class.

Accept that some children find it particularly difficult to conform all the time and try to praise them for progress, however minimal. It is sometimes useful to praise behaviour which is nearly what you like, particularly in a child who finds it difficult to cope with classroom demands.

Praise positive behaviours, discuss inappropriate ones but avoid comments which suggest that you expect poor behaviour or work from a child.

A few children may need some extrinsic motivation, and will benefit from receiving rewards for good work or behaviour. Rewards include:-

- ❖ Praise by staff/colleague
- ❖ Being given a responsible job
- ❖ Choosing an activity for himself or a group
- ❖ Being first out of the classroom when a session ends
- ❖ Choosing a story, poem or song for the class
- ❖ Showing work to another member of staff or parent
- ❖ Sticker or certificate (available in school)
- ❖ Star of the week.

Rewards should be achieved on a session or daily basis, to make success as immediate as possible.

Rewards are better than punishment, and missing PE or doing extra maths, should never be considered a viable strategy.

### **Managing Challenging Behaviour**

It is very important that staff should enlist the help of the Head/Deputy before a child's needs become acute, in monitoring progress, counselling and reinforcing the positive approach. It may be appropriate to inform other members of staff including all support staff, when a particular effort is being made with a child. If the challenging/inappropriate behaviour persists then we will seek additional help and advice from the support services.

### **Exclusion from school**

Occasionally, a child finds the following of our school rules very hard and continually behaves in an unacceptable way putting others or themselves at risk or disrupting others persistently. We will have worked closely with the parent/carer. The child may be excluded from school for a set number of

days. The Chair of Governors is informed as is the authority. Parents are given reasons for the exclusion and contact numbers.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

The governing body has important statutory duties towards pupils with Special Needs as outlined below:-

### **The SEND Register**

The school maintains a SEND register which contains details of all children identified as having special needs. This is confidential. The register is continually being revised and updated.

### **Support Sources**

We do not have any special unit attached to our school, but have access to and benefit from a wide range of support services and other agencies with whom we aim to work in partnership.

- ❖ Educational Psychology Service
- ❖ High Incident Needs Team (HINT)
- ❖ Northumberland Inclusive Education Service (NIES)
- ❖ Social Services
- ❖ School medical service
- ❖ Speech therapists
- ❖ Secondary school liaison
- ❖ Local nurseries
- ❖ Children and Young People' Service (CYPS)
- ❖ Police service
- ❖ SENDCO Cluster group (Central Area)

### **Governor responsible for SEND**

The governor responsible for SEND together with the SENDCO/Head monitors the most efficient use of the SEND budget. She reports back to the governing body and parents on the effectiveness of the policy.

### **Governor/Staff Training**

We will continue to develop staff/governors expertise by making full use of courses provided by the Education Authority, National conferences and other agencies or INSET drawing on staff specialisation. The needs are identified by the individual, the SENDCO and through the School Improvement Plan. The school's Performance Management system will assist in highlighting training needs as will the CPD Coordinator.

### **Partnership with Parents (all those with parental responsibility)**

"Parents hold key information and have a critical role to play in their children's education. They have unique strengths, knowledge and experience to contribute to the shared view of a child's needs and the best ways of supporting them."

(Special Educational Needs Code of Practice January 2002 p.16)

We actively encourage all of our parents to support their child through positive attitudes, giving user-friendly information and effective communication. However, all staff should be aware of the pressures a parent may be under because of the child's needs.

To make communications effective professionals should:

- ❖ acknowledge and draw on parental knowledge and expertise in relation to their child
- ❖ focus on the children's strengths as well as areas of additional need
- ❖ recognise the personal and emotional investment of parents and be aware of their feelings
- ❖ ensure that parents understand procedures, are aware of how to access support in preparing their contributions, and are given documents to be discussed well before meetings

- ❖ respect the validity of differing perspectives and seek constructive ways of reconciling different viewpoints
- ❖ respect the differing needs parents themselves may have, such as a disability, or communication and linguistic barriers
- ❖ recognise the need for flexibility in the timing and structure of meetings.

We aim to inform parents as soon as a child is "flagged" as a cause for concern, so that they are fully involved in the school based response for their child, understand the purpose of any intervention or programme of action, and be told about the parent partnership service.

"A local education authority must arrange for the parent of any child in their area with special educational needs to be provided with advice and information about matters relating to those needs."  
(Education Act 1996 Section 332A)

SENCO/Head, class teachers and SEND support talk both informally/formally to parents in school, may write, telephone or home visit if appropriate.

Parents also have a responsibility to communicate effectively with professionals to support their children's education. They should:

- ❖ communicate regularly with their child's school and alert them to any concerns they have about their child's learning or provision
- ❖ fulfil their obligations under home-school agreements which set out expectations of both sides.

We will ensure that parents are fully involved in any discussions leading up to a school's decision to request a statutory assessment.

### **Partnership with Pupils**

We will continue to work towards positive pupil involvement in decision-making related to their development. Most children have their own views on how they see their special needs which may give

insight into the problems experienced by both pupils and teacher. From an early age, children with SEND should be actively involved at an appropriate level in discussions about their progress including target setting and review arrangements and have their views recorded. Children should be encouraged to share in the recording process and in monitoring and evaluating their own performance so that every achievement is given a sense of worth, developing confidence and self esteem. As all children are working towards setting achievable targets for themselves within the class then this can only be viewed as a natural extension.

### **Partnership with Other Schools**

The school liases with all local feeder Schools in order to ensure the easiest possible transition from primary through to the secondary phase. Planning for transition for some pupils may start as early as Year 3 when, working with parents, individual visits can be arranged to help inform the correct placement for their child. In Year 4, the Year 5 tutor and/or the SENDCO visits our school for the transfer of information and to meet the children. The children have the opportunity to spend part of the day 'sampling' life in their new school. The Year 5 teacher and/or the SENDCO discuss each child plus relevant information is passed on. Occasionally, a child may need to visit more often in order to prepare more fully - this is usually a child with additional teacher support. We make flexible arrangements whereby the two can visit. All records - assessments , records of achievement and SEND records are passed on. If a Year 4 child holds an EHC, a review is held in the Summer Term to bring together the family, child and all staff/support services involved. The strengths and areas of concern are looked at as are the needs of the child. The possible new School is also invited to attend. The wishes of the parents are considered carefully. The Area Special Needs Officer will guide and suggest a placement where the child's needs can best be met.

When a child transfers to another primary school, special school or unit, records are forwarded within 15 school days of the child ceasing to be registered at the school to ensure minimum disruption in educational profession and progress. The school always offers the SENDCO as a person to contact if further information is needed.

## **Complaints Procedure**

Parents/carers are asked to speak to the class teacher or SENDCO in the first instance. The SENDCO will handle any complaints about the SEND provision in school, under the school Complaints Policy. The school complaints procedure is available on the school website - [www.morpethgoosehill.org](http://www.morpethgoosehill.org).

## **Resources**

The school is fortunate in having a number of reading schemes and children are encouraged to read a wide variety of books (fiction and non-fiction). It is very important that all children are given as much opportunity as possible to be involved in the selection of their own reading material as well as the support of a structured scheme. Some children may benefit from using a multi-strategy approach with their reading.

All classrooms hold some resources and differentiated materials at different levels matched to ability. Advice is always available from the SENDCO, subject leaders or support teacher/TA's.

## **The Use of Information Communication Technology**

ICT is a very useful tool for all children, but can be an invaluable resource for a child with learning difficulties. Once again, peer group or independent use is encouraged. Word processors and specific programmes are used in all areas of school. All children learn about the importance of e-safety and staying safe online.

## **Evaluation of Success**

Evaluation of the success of this policy requires evidence of:

1. Increased parental and pupil involvement.
2. Careful monitoring of targets achieved against those set.
3. Early identification of SEND.
4. Improvement in standards of achievement by individual children as determined by formal and informal assessment.

5. Staff/governor development with In-Service training.
6. Further developing links with other schools and agencies and within the community.

This policy is due for monitoring - SEPT 2024