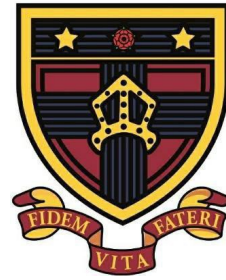


# **St. Mary's College**



## **Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Policy 2022/2023**

Reviewed by: S. Townsley – September 2022  
Date of Next Review: September 2023



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## **Statement of intent**

St Mary's College is committed to giving all pupils the opportunity to achieve the highest standards through a curriculum which combines breadth and balance with respect for individual talents and high expectations of all students.

This policy helps to ensure that this school promotes the individuality of all our children, irrespective of ethnicity, attainment, age, disability, gender or background. St Mary's College values all pupils and celebrates diversity of experience, interest and achievement.

All pupils need to experience praise, recognition and success, and pupils with SEND have equal entitlement to this.

This policy outlines the framework for the school to meet its duty, obligation and principal equality values to provide a high-quality education to all of its pupils, including pupils with SEND, and to do everything it can to meet the needs of pupils with SEND.

Through successful implementation of this policy, the school aims to:

- Eliminate discrimination.
- Promote equal opportunities.
- Ensure high-quality provision to meet the needs of pupils with SEND

# 1. Framework

The SEND policy was written with reference to the following guidance and documents:

- Children and Families Act 2014
- Health and Social Care Act 2012
- Equality Act 2010
- The Equality Act 2010 (Disability) Regulations 2010
- Education Act 1996
- Education Act 2002
- Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Children Act 1989
- The Special Educational Needs and Disability (Amendment) Regulations 2015
- The Special Educational Needs (Personal Budgets) Regulations 2014
- The Special Educational Needs and Disability (Detained Persons) Regulations 2015
- Local Government Act 1974
- Disabled Persons (Services, Consultation and Representation) Act 1986
- Data Protection Act 2018
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
- DfE (2015) 'Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years'
- DfE (2015) 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions'
- DfE (2021) 'Keeping children safe in education 2021'
- DfE (2018) 'Working Together to Safeguard Children'
- DfE (2018) 'Mental health and wellbeing provision in schools'
- DfE (2021) 'School Admissions Code'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Admissions Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy: Pupils
- Pupil Confidentiality Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Records Management Policy
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Exclusion Policy
- Behavioral Policy
- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Accessibility Plan

## 2. Identifying SEND

The school has a clear approach to identifying and responding to SEND, and recognises that early identification and effective provision improves long-term outcomes for the pupils.

With the support of the SLT, classroom teachers will conduct regular progress assessments for all pupils, with the aim of identifying pupils who are making less than expected progress.

### 'Definitions

For this policy, a pupil is defined as having SEND if they have a:

- Significantly greater difficulty in learning than most others of the same age.
- Disability or health condition that prevents or hinders them from making use of educational facilities used by peers of the same age.

Under the Equality Act 2010, a disability is a physical or mental impairment which has a long-term and substantial adverse effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

The school reviews how well equipped we are to provide support across the following areas:

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

### Communication and interaction

Pupils with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) have difficulty in communicating with others, often because they have difficulty saying what they want, they cannot understand what is being said to them, or they do not understand or use social rules of communication.

The school recognises that:

- Pupils with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) can have particular difficulties with social interaction.
- The profile for every pupil with SLCN is different and their needs may change over time. They may have difficulty with one, some, or all the different aspects of speech, language or social communication at different times of their lives.

The SENCO and designated staff members will work with pupils, parents, and language and communication experts where necessary to support pupils with SLCN reach their potential.

### Cognition and learning

The school understands that learning difficulties cover a wide range of needs, such as moderate learning difficulty (MLD), severe learning difficulty (SLD) and profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD). The SENCO and designated staff members will ensure that any provision the school can offer will aim to meet the needs of the pupil.

Specific learning difficulties (SpLDs) affect one or more specific aspects of learning. This encompasses a range of conditions such as dyslexia, dyscalculia, dysgraphia and dyspraxia.

#### Social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) difficulties

Pupils may experience a wide range of social and emotional difficulties that manifest themselves in many ways, including becoming withdrawn or isolated, or displaying challenging, disruptive and disturbing behaviour. The school recognises that these behaviours may reflect underlying mental health difficulties such as anxiety or depression, and the school will implement a Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Policy to support pupils with these difficulties.

#### Sensory or physical needs

Impairments that prevent or hinder pupils from using the school facilities, such as vision impairment (VI), do not necessarily have SEND. The school will ensure staff understand that:

- Some conditions can be age-related and can fluctuate over time.
- A pupil with a disability is covered by the definition of SEND if they require special educational provision.

Under The Equality Act 2010 (Disability) Regulations 2010, the following conditions do not constitute a disability:

- A tendency to set fires
- A tendency to steal
- A tendency to commit physical or sexual abuse towards others
- Exhibitionism
- Voyeurism

### 3. Objectives

The school will meet the core aims of this policy by achieving the following strategic and measurable objectives:

- Consider the guidance outlined in the DfE's 'Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years'
- To monitor the progress of all pupils to aid the earliest possible identification of SEND
- To help all pupils at the College to achieve full access to the curriculum
- To encourage all members of the College, teachers and pupils, to develop an awareness of and respect for individual differences and alternative ways of learning
- To provide advice and guidance to pupils, parents and teaching staff as appropriate
- To provide appropriate material resources and specialist teaching to support pupils with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities who attend lessons in the Department
- To develop a partnership with parents in order to foster a positive approach to learning outside school time
- To maintain close links with parents on the academic and pastoral progress of pupils with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities

## 4. Roles and responsibilities

The governing board will be responsible for:

- Ensuring that effective provision is in place for pupils with SEND, whether or not they have an EHC plan.
- Designating an appropriate member of staff to be the SENCO and having responsibility for coordinating provision for pupils with SEND.
- Appointing a designated teacher for LAC, where appropriate.
- Ensuring that reasonable adjustments are made for pupils with disabilities to help alleviate any substantial disadvantage they experience because of their disability.
- Taking necessary steps to ensure that pupils with disabilities are not discriminated against, harassed or victimised, e.g. in line with the Equal Opportunities Policy: Pupils.
- Regularly monitoring the school's policies and procedures, to review their impact on pupils with SEND, including on their mental health and wellbeing.
- Preparing the Accessibility Plan, showing how the school intends to progressively improve access over time.
- Ensuring arrangements are in place to support pupils at school with medical conditions, in line with the school's Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy.
- Appointing an individual governor or sub-committee to oversee the school's arrangements for SEND.
- Ensuring that the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy addresses additional safeguarding challenges that children with SEND may face.

The Principal will be responsible for:

- Ensuring that those who are teaching or working with pupils with SEND are aware of their needs and have arrangements in place to meet them.
- Ensuring that teachers monitor and review pupils' progress during the academic year.
- Cooperating with the LA during annual EHC plan reviews.
- Ensuring that the SENCO has sufficient time and resources to carry out their functions.
- Providing the SENCO with sufficient administrative support and time away from teaching to enable them to fulfil their responsibilities.
- Ensuring that teachers understand the strategies to identify and support vulnerable pupils.
- Ensuring teachers have an established understanding of different types of SEND.
- Ensuring that procedures and policies for the day-to-day running of the school do not directly or indirectly discriminate against pupils with SEND.
- Establishing and maintaining a culture of high expectations and including pupils with SEND in all opportunities available to other pupils.

- Ensuring that the approach to the curriculum includes how it is made accessible for pupils with SEND.
- Consulting health and social care professionals, pupils, and parents to ensure the needs of pupils with medical conditions are effectively supported.
- Ensuring that the SENCO is provided with opportunities for training

The SENCO will be responsible for:

- Collaborating with the governing board and Principal, as part of the SLT, to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision in the school.
- Working with the relevant governors and the Principal to ensure that the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010, regarding reasonable adjustments and access arrangements.
- The day-to-day operation and implementation of the SEND policy.
- Coordinating the specific provision made to support individual pupils with SEND, including those with EHC plans.
- Liaising with the relevant, designated teachers where LAC have SEND.
- Liaising with the parents of pupils with SEND.
- Liaising with early years providers, other schools, educational psychologists, health and social care professionals, and independent or voluntary bodies, as required.
- Being a key point of contact for external agencies, especially the LA and LA support services.
- Liaising with the potential future providers of education to ensure that pupils and their parents are informed about the options, and a smooth transition is planned.
- Drawing up a one-page profile of a pupil with SEND.
- Providing professional guidance to colleagues and working closely with staff members, parents and other agencies.
- Ensuring that the school keeps the records of all pupils with SEND up-to-date, in line with the school's Data Protection Policy.
- Participating in training and CPD opportunities
- Providing training to relevant class teachers.
- Supporting teachers in the further assessment of a pupil's particular strengths and weaknesses, and advising on effective implementation of support.

The DSL will be responsible for:

- Liaising with the Principal to inform them of any issues, especially ongoing enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and police investigations regarding pupils with SEND.
- Liaising with the relevant staff on matters of safety, safeguarding and welfare, including online and digital safety regarding pupils with SEND.
- Liaising with the SENCO where appropriate regarding safeguarding concerns for a pupil with SEND.
- Promoting supportive engagement with parents and/or carers in safeguarding and promote the welfare of pupils with SEND, including where families may be facing challenging circumstances.



- Working with the Principal and relevant strategic leads, taking lead responsibility for promoting educational outcomes by knowing the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues that pupils with SEND are experiencing or have experienced, and identifying the impact that these issues might be having on pupil's attendance, engagement and achievements.
- Recognising the additional risks that pupils with SEND face online, e.g., from online bullying, grooming and radicalisation, and ensuring they have the capability to support pupils with SEND to stay safe online.

Teachers will be responsible for:

- Planning and reviewing support for pupils with SEND, in collaboration with parents, the SENCO and, where appropriate, the pupils themselves.
- Setting high expectations for every pupil and aiming to teach them the full curriculum, whatever their prior attainment.
- Planning lessons to address potential areas of difficulty to ensure that there are no barriers to every pupil achieving.
- Ensuring every pupil with SEND is able to access the curriculum.
- Being accountable for the progress and development of the pupils in their class.
- Being aware of the needs, and support provided to any pupils with SEND they are working with.
- Understanding and implementing strategies to identify and support vulnerable pupils with the support of the SENCO.

## **5. Children with specific circumstances**

### **LAC**

Pupils at the school who are being accommodated, or who have been taken into care, by the LA are legally defined as being 'looked after' by the LA.

The school recognises that pupils that have SEND are more likely to be 'looked after', and it is likely that a significant proportion of them will have an EHC plan.

The school has a designated member of staff for coordinating the support for LAC.

Where that role is carried out by a person other than the SENCO, designated teachers will work closely with the SENCO to ensure that the implications of a child being both looked after and having SEND are fully understood by relevant school staff.

### **EAL**

St Mary's College is committed to making appropriate provision for teaching and resources for students for whom English is an additional language. The College will recognise individual students' needs, recognise the skills they bring to the College and ensure equality of access to the curriculum.

The College follows the five codes, A to E, when assessing EAL pupils.

The school will consider the pupil within the context of their home, culture and community.

Where there is uncertainty about an individual pupil, the school will make full use of any local sources of advice relevant to the language group concerned, drawing on community liaison arrangements wherever they exist.

The school appreciates having EAL is not equated to having learning difficulties. At the same time, when pupils with EAL make slow progress, it will not be assumed that their language status is the only reason; they may have SEND.

The school will look carefully at all aspects of a pupil's performance in different subjects to establish whether the problems they have in the classroom are due to limitations in their command of English or arise from SEND.

## **6. Involving pupils and parents in decision-making**

The College believes that parents have a critical role to play in their children's education. All staff have an important role in developing positive and constructive relationships with parents.

Parents are encouraged to discuss any problems or concerns with the school, with child's teacher initially. If the problem is not resolved then the parent may raise the concern with the Head of Year or Principal as appropriate. If the problem is still not resolved, then the parent may take their complaint to the governors.

## **7. Local Offer**

The purpose of the local offer is to enable parents and young people to see more clearly what services are available in their area and how to access them. It includes provision from birth to 25, across education, health and social care.

[Sefton's Local Offer](#)

## **8. School Offer**

The purpose of the school offer is to enable parents to see more clearly what provision is available at the College to meet their child's need. Visit our website <https://stmarys.ac/> to view this document.

## **9. Graduated approach**

Once a pupil with SEND has been identified, the school will employ a graduated approach to meet the pupil's needs by:

- Establishing the pupil's needs.
- Planning, with the pupil and their parents, the interventions and support to be put in place
- Implementing the interventions, with the support of the SENCO.
- Reviewing the effectiveness of the interventions and making any necessary revisions.

The school adopts a graduated response in order to help pupils with SEN and recognises there is a continuum of special educational needs, with some students requiring more support than others.

## **10. Training**

Relevant staff members will keep up-to-date with any necessary training, which will be provided by the SENCO, as well as external agencies, where appropriate. Training will cover both the mental and physical needs of pupils with SEND. The training offered will be delivered to ensure equality, diversity, understanding and tolerance.

## **11. Promoting mental health and wellbeing**

The school will implement a Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Policy. The school will ensure that there is a focus on promoting pupils' resilience, confidence and ability to learn in subjects across the curriculum.

Peer mentoring will be used to encourage and support pupils suffering with SEMH difficulties. Mentors will act as a confidant with the aim of easing the worries of their mentee.

When in-school intervention is not appropriate, referrals and commissioning will be used instead. The school will continue to support the pupil as best it can.

The school will consider whether disruptive behaviour is a manifestation of SEMH needs.

The school will focus on work that helps to build self-esteem and self-discipline with the aim of addressing disruptive behaviour.

## **12. Education, Health and Care plans (EHCP)**

The school will fully cooperate with the LA when research about the pupil is being conducted. The school will provide the LA with any information or evidence needed. All relevant teachers will be involved in contributing information to the LA.

Where the LA provides a pupil with an EHC plan, the school will work closely with the parents and the pupil to examine if and how the school can best implement the plan's provisions to allow the pupil thrive in their education at St Mary's College.

The school will meet its duty to provide views on a draft EHC plan.

The school will review each pupil's EHC plan to ensure that it includes the statutory sections outlined in the 'Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years', labelled separately from one another. If a pupil's needs significantly change, the school will request a re-assessment of an EHC plan.

The school will ensure that any EHC plan information is kept confidential and disclosed on a need-to-know basis. Information regarding a pupil's EHC plan will only be shared with other educational settings if the pupil is transferring there, for the setting to develop an individual learning plan. The school will take steps to ensure that pupils and parents are actively supported in developing and reviewing EHC plans.

### **13. Safeguarding**

The school recognises that evidence shows children with SEND are at a greater risk of abuse and maltreatment and will ensure that staff are aware that pupils with SEND:

- Have the potential to be disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying.
- May face additional risks online, e.g. from online bullying, grooming and radicalisation.
- Are at greater risk of abuse, including, but not limited to, peer-on-peer abuse, neglect and sexual violence or harassment.

The school recognises that there are additional barriers to recognising abuse and neglect in this group of pupils. These barriers include, though are not limited to,

- Assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the pupil's condition without further exploration.
- These pupils being more prone to peer group isolation or bullying (including prejudice-based bullying) than other pupils.
- The potential for pupils with SEND or certain medical conditions being disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying, without outwardly showing any signs.
- Communication barriers and difficulties in managing or reporting these challenges.

The Principal and governing board will ensure that the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy reflects the fact that these additional barriers can exist when identifying abuse. When using reasonable force in response to risks presented by incidents involving pupils with SEND, staff will have due regard for the procedures outlined in the school's Positive Handling Policy.

Care will be taken by all staff, particularly those who work closely with pupils with SEND, to notice any changes behaviour or mood, or any injuries, and these indicators will be investigated by the DSL in collaboration with the SENCO.

## **14. Monitoring and review**

The policy is reviewed on an annual basis by the Principal in conjunction with the governing board; any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all members of staff, parents of pupils with SEND, and relevant stakeholders.

All members of staff are required to familiarise themselves with this policy as part of their induction programme.

The next scheduled review date for this policy is September 2023.