



Staplehurst School

# Policy for Inclusion and Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

Policy reviewed and approved at a meeting of the **Full Governing Body**

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Policy to be next reviewed

**October 2026**

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## **School Vision and Values**

At Staplehurst School...

### **Children come first; they are our future**

We build strong positive relationships and trust; as a highly inclusive school we celebrate individuality and promote well being through excellent pastoral provision.

We promote a thirst for knowledge and a love of learning by teaching and ambitious knowledge rich curriculum that inspires curiosity and is relevant for our community.

We empower all children through our high expectations to be tolerant, respectful, determined and independent active members of a diverse local, national and global community.

We encourage all children to achieve in all areas so that they can reach their potential.

### **Rationale**

At Staplehurst School, we are committed to providing an inclusive and supportive learning environment where every child, regardless of their individual needs, can thrive. Our SEND policy reflects our belief that all children are entitled to access a broad, balanced, and relevant curriculum, tailored to meet their unique strengths and challenges.

## 1. Aims

Staplehurst School's Policy for Inclusion and Special Educational Needs aims to:

- Ensure our school fully implements national legislation and Kent Local Authority's guidance and expectations.

Sets out how our school will:

- Support pupils with SEND ensuring our best endeavours to provide the appropriate provision to enable positive outcomes.
- Provide an inclusive environment that enables pupils to access all aspects of school life alongside their peers.
- Provide pupils with the skills and attributes that enable them to become confident individuals who can successfully live fulfilling lives.
- Support pupils with SEND to realise their aspirations and achieve their best.
- Communicate with pupils with SEND and their parents or carers ensuring co-production and seek pupil and parent or carer voices to fully involve them in decision making and discussions to support their child's provision.
- Communicate and explain the roles and responsibilities of key school and external professionals who are supporting the provision for pupils with SEND.
- Ensure the SEND Policy is understood and implemented consistently by all staff and is monitored by the school's Governors.

At Staplehurst School, all pupils irrespective of need access a broad and balanced curriculum which is delivered through high quality inclusive teaching to enable every pupil to make progress and reach their full potential socially, emotionally and academically. When required to do so, the school will make reasonable adjustments to support pupils with SEND. The school sets high expectations and aspirations for each individual pupil, working together with them, and their parents/carers to ensure that pupils with SEND become confident and independent children and young people who are able to successfully transition to the next phase of their education or adult life.

## 2. Legislation and Guidance

This policy is written in line with:

The regulation associated with:

- Children and Families Act 2014 – Part 3: [Children And Families Act 2014 Part 3](#)
- Special Educational needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice 2015:
- The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014: [The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014](#)
- Equality Act 2010: [Equality Act 2010](#)
- School Admission Code 2021 [School Admission Code 2021](#)
- The School Information Regulations: Updated 24/10/24:  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/what-maintained-schools-must-publish-online>
- Governance in Maintained Schools Handbook 2024: [Governance in Maintained Schools](#)

### Kent Local Authority:

#### The Local Authority's local offer

The Local Authority's Offer can be found in the SEND Information Report

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs>

#### Countywide Approach to Inclusive Education (CATIE)

[A Countywide Approach to Inclusive Education \(kelsi.org.uk\)](#)

What does inclusion mean in Kent?

'As the champion of families, children, and young people our collective priorities are to be certain that all children and young people are engaged with and included in the provision of high-quality inclusive education. Ensuring that, whatever their circumstance or ability, our children have a sense of belonging, feel respected, are valued for who they are and develop the knowledge and skills required for adult life. In doing so, we strive to achieve a continuous improvement in standards, a significant narrowing of achievement gaps for vulnerable groups of learners and a wholly inclusive education system which ensures:

- **Equitable access for all.** Sufficient, appropriate, quality education provision is available for all children and young people in Kent.
- **No child is left behind.** All children and young people are supported to be engaged fully in their education.

- **Effective collaboration.** There is collaboration and multi-agency working providing a self-informing, sustainable system which supports the education of all.' (KCC: CATIE p 2-3)

**Special Educational Needs Mainstream Core Standards (ordinarily available provision) :** [Special Educational Needs Mainstream Core Standards](#)

The Mainstream Core Standards:

- Sets out the provision that the Local Area has agreed should be ordinarily available for Children and Young People with SEND
- Provides guidance and advice to support schools to meet the needs of and include Children Young People with SEND
- Provides clear guidance to schools on the statutory duties regarding the inclusion of Children and Young People with SEND
- Provides information to all stakeholders on the work of schools in relation to the inclusion of Children and Young People with SEND.

All provision and support at Staplehurst School works towards achieving the Kent Children and Young People Outcomes Framework



Our SEND policy should be read in conjunction with our school's policies published on our website :

- SEN Information Report
- Safeguarding policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Equality Policy and Accessibility Plan
- Attendance Policy

### 3. Definitions

#### Definition of SEN

'A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her.

A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty if he or she:

- Has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or
- Has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools to mainstream post-16 institutions'

(DFE/DOH 2015: 15-16)

### **Definition of Disability:**

'Many children and young people who have SEN may have a disability under the Equality Act 2010- that is '...a physical or mental impairment which is a long-term and substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.' This definition provides a low threshold and includes more children than many realise: 'Long term' is defined as a 'year or more' and substantial' is defined as 'more than minor or trivial'. This definition includes sensory impairments such as those affecting sight or hearing and long-term health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, and cancer. Children and young people with such conditions do not necessarily have SEN, but there is sufficient overlap between disabled children and young people and those with SEN. Where a disabled child or young person requires a special educational provision they will also be covered by the SEN definition' (DfE/DOH 2015: 16)

### **Special Educational Needs Register:**

At Staplehurst School the SENCO will regularly review the SEN register as part of the Graduated Approach. The SENCO will work in co-production with parents/carers and if required key external professionals to ensure high quality SEN provision is in place, informing parents/carers of any changes that have been agreed. School staff will also be informed, and records updated accordingly on the appropriate school system. A diagnosis does not necessarily mean that a pupil will be placed on the SEN register if the universal and targeted provision the pupil is accessing is enabling them to make good progress.

### **Special Educational Needs (SEN) support**

'SEN support means support that is additional to, or different from, the support generally made for other children of the same age in a school. It is provided for pupils who are identified as having a learning difficulty or a disability that requires extra or different help to that normally provided as part of the school's usual curriculum offer. A pupil on SEN support will not have an education, health and care plan.'

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/special-educational-needs-in-england>

## Education, health and care (EHC) plans

A local authority may issue an EHC plan for a pupil who needs more support than is available through SEN support. This will follow a statutory assessment process whereby the local authority considers the pupil's special educational needs and any relevant health and social care needs; sets out long term outcomes; and specifies provision which will deliver additional support to meet those needs.

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/special-educational-needs-in-england>

## The 4 areas of need

The needs of pupils with SEND are grouped into four broad areas. Pupils can have needs that cut across more than one area, and their needs may change over time.

Interventions will be selected that are appropriate for the pupil's particular area(s) of need, at the relevant time.

AREA OF NEED	
Communication and Interaction	<p>Pupils with needs in this area have difficulty communicating with others. They may have difficulty understanding what is being said to them, have trouble expressing themselves, or do not understand or use the social rules of communication.</p> <p>Pupils who are on the autism spectrum often have needs that fall in this category.</p>
Cognition and Learning	<p>Pupils with learning difficulties usually learn at a slower pace than their peers.</p> <p>A wide range of needs are grouped in this area, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Specific learning difficulties, which impact 1 or more specific aspects of learning, such as: dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia</li><li>• Moderate learning difficulties</li><li>• Severe learning difficulties</li><li>• Profound and multiple learning difficulties, which is where pupils are likely to have severe and complex learning difficulties as well as a physical disability or sensory impairment</li></ul>

AREA OF NEED	
Social, Emotional and Mental Health	<p>These needs may reflect a wide range of underlying difficulties or disorders. Pupils may have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental health difficulties such as anxiety, depression or an eating disorder</li> <li>• Attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactive disorder or attachment disorder</li> <li>• Suffered adverse childhood experiences</li> </ul> <p>These needs can manifest in many ways, for example as challenging, disruptive or disturbing behaviour, or by the pupil becoming withdrawn or isolated.</p>
Sensory and/or Physical	<p>Pupils with these needs have a disability that hinders them from accessing the educational facilities generally provided.</p> <p>Pupils may have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A sensory impairment such as vision impairment, hearing impairment or multi-sensory impairment</li> <li>• A physical impairment</li> </ul> <p>These pupils may need ongoing additional support and equipment to access all the opportunities available to their peers.</p>

## 4. Inclusion and Equal Opportunity

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.

See the SEN Information Report for further information regarding our approach to inclusion.

## 5. Roles and Responsibilities

Staplehurst School works strategically in line with the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice 2015

The school will ensure that pupils, parents and carers have:

- Access to impartial information, advice and support throughout their time in the school to help them make informed decisions and choices about their future.
- Are effectively supported to understand their rights and decision-making processes and choices regarding their plans and support.
- An understanding of their individual plans, outcomes, provision and support and the reasons why some changes may not be possible

(Area SEND inspections: framework and handbook updated April 2024)

### 5.1 SENCO

At Staplehurst School our SENCO and Inclusion Lead is Mr Tate.

He has 3 years' experience in this role but has worked at the school as a qualified teacher for 9 years. He achieved the National Award in Special Educational Needs Co-ordination in February 2024.

The SENCO has an important role to play with the headteacher and governing body with regards to the strategic oversight and implementation of Staplehurst School 's SEN policy and development.

They will:

- Oversee the day-to-day responsibility and implementation of the SEND policy.
- Ensure all statutory requirements are adhered to throughout the year
- Co-ordinate provision for children with SEN using the graduated approach – Assess, Plan, Do, Review to review and monitor provision for all pupils with SEN.

- Communicate and provide all staff with the key SEN and medical information, advice, guidance, and strategies to support pupils with SEN ensuring high quality provision across the school.
- Collaborate with teachers, support staff, parents and carers regarding all aspects of their child(ren)'s provision including interventions and outcomes.
- Offer professional guidance to staff to secure high quality inclusive provision in the classroom and throughout the school day.
- Collaborate with curriculum leaders to remove barriers to learning.
- Develop and lead whole school continued professional development to ensure high quality provision for all pupils with SEN.
- Liaise with the relevant Designated Teacher where a looked after child or young person has SEN
- Liaise with early years providers, other schools, educational psychologists, health and social care professionals, and independent or voluntary bodies.
- Liaise with potential next providers of education to ensure that the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 regarding reasonable adjustments and access arrangements.
- Be the key point of contact for external agencies, especially the local authority and its support services
- Ensure the school keeps up-to-date records of all pupils with SEN.
- Ensure any pupils who has a part time timetable is agreed with parent/carers, is registered on the KELSI website and a clear re-integration strategy is planned in conjunction with the parent/carers and pupil.
- Hold status in order to have capacity and authority to make change.
- Ensure genuine coproduction and collaboration with the wider community.
- Advising on the deployment of the school's delegated budget and other resources to meet pupils' needs effectively
- To keep up to date with key national and local SEN development.
- Attend key meetings organised by the local authority such as The Countywide SENCO Forum to ensure they have up-to-date strategic and operational information.
- Is fully involved in all aspects of transition planning whether phased or in year regarding pupils with SEND, following expectations set out in the District Plans and Kent Transition Charter. Ensuring parents/carers are fully informed throughout the transition period.
- Work closely with other colleagues and SENCOs in their Community of Schools.

(Developed from DfE/DOH SEND Code of Practice 2015:108-109)

## **5.2 Headteacher**

The headteacher will:

- Work closely with the SENCO and SEN link governor to determine the strategic development of the SEN policy and provision across the school.
- Work with the SENCO and governors to ensure the school adheres to all legislative and statutory guidance keeping up to date with all key national and local policies and expected SEN practice.
- Ensure the SENCO has sufficient time and resources to effectively carry out their role.
- Work closely with the SENCO to carry out their duties employing the Graduated Approach, using their 'best endeavours' and when required making reasonable adjustments to ensure the school is providing high quality SEN provision.
- Have overall responsibility for the provision for pupils with SEN, their progress, and outcomes.
- Have the responsibility for monitoring the school's notional SEN budget and any additional funding allocated by the LA to support individual pupils or SEN provision for groups of pupils.

## **5.3 SEND Governor**

Our Governing Body have a legal responsibility to pupils with SEN as defined in the Children and Families Act 2014 and SEND Code of Practice 2015.

The SEN governor will:

- Help to raise awareness of SEN issues at governing board meetings.
- Monitor the quality and effectiveness of SEN and disability provision within the school and update the governing body following monitoring visits.
- Work with the headteacher and SENCO to determine the strategic development of the SEN policy and provision in the school.

The named Governor is responsible for the strategic oversight of the arrangements and provision for pupils with SEN.

The SEND Governor will:

- carry out monitoring visits on behalf of the Governing Body to ensure high quality and effective provision is in place and in line with the SEND Code of Practice statutory and Local Authority guidance and expectations.

- Report to and raise awareness of SEN issues raised during monitoring visits and meetings at Governing Body meetings.
- Work closely with the SENCO and Headteacher to ensure the strategic review and development of the SEND Policy, SEN Information Report and provision in the school.

Our SEN Governor/Trustee is **Jane Syred**.

## 5.4 Teachers

**All teachers are teachers of pupils with special educational needs.** Our SENCO provides a vital strategic role and provides significant advice and support to teachers, but the responsibility for the learning and progress of all children lies with the teacher.

'High quality teaching, differentiated for individual pupils, is the starting point in responding to pupils who have or may have SEN. Additional intervention and SEN support cannot compensate for a lack of good quality teaching.

Schools should regularly and carefully review the quality of teaching for all pupils, including those at risk of underachievement. This includes reviewing and, where necessary, improving, teachers' understanding of strategies to identify and support vulnerable pupils, and their knowledge of the SEN most frequently encountered.'(DfE/DoH SEND Code of Practice 2015: 25)

Every teacher is responsible for:

- The progress and development of every pupil in their class
- Instilling high aspirations for every pupil.
- Delivering a broad balanced curriculum embedding high-quality inclusive teaching strategies and resources
- Working closely with teaching assistants or specialist staff to plan, monitor, track and assess the impact of support and interventions, and how they can be transitioned and embedded in the classroom.
- Working with the SENCO to review each pupil's progress and development, and decide on any changes to provision.
- Ensuring they follow this SEN policy.

## 5.5 Parents and carers

Parents and carers should inform the school if they have any concerns about their child's progress socially, physically, emotionally, or academically or if there are any changes to provision that have been advised by key external professionals working with their child following an appointment.

Parents/ carers are actively involved in all aspects of the decision-making process through meetings or agreed forms of communication and are afforded every opportunity to contribute discussions regarding their child's SEN provision as part of the 'Assess. Plan, Do, Review' cycle.

## **5.6 The pupil**

Seeking the voice of the pupil is an important aspect of ensuring the SEN provision is highly effective for every pupil with SEN. Pupils are given every opportunity to express their view and provide information to support review meetings as part of our Graduated Approach in year meetings and for pupils with an EHCP the statutory Annual Review. However, the voice of the pupil can be sought at any time throughout the school year.

## **6. SEN Information Report**

Our SEN policy works in conjunction with our SEN Information report which sets out how this policy is implemented in the school.

The SEN Information Report is updated annually or if necessary, when changes to the information may be required during the academic year.

## **7. Admissions and Accessibility**

Staplehurst School is aware of its obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and complies with non-discrimination provisions and admissions processes.

### **Admission of Pupils with SEN or a Disability:**

We do not discriminate against pupils with SEN or disabilities and welcome applications from all prospective pupils. We actively work to ensure that all children, including those with additional needs, can access the same high-quality education and support as their peers.

### **Pupils with an Education, Health, and Care (EHC) Plan:**

Admissions decisions for pupils with an EHCP are made by the Local Authority, and more information can be found on the LA's school places website. For pupils without an EHCP, our admission arrangements are fully inclusive, ensuring that no child with special educational needs or disabilities is disadvantaged or discriminated against.

Pupils with an EHC plan that names Staplehurst School will be admitted before any other places are allocated, as part of our commitment to inclusion. We work closely with families, the Local Authority, and professionals to ensure a smooth transition for these pupils and to tailor our provision to meet their specific needs.

### **Oversubscription Criteria:**

Our oversubscription criteria are designed to ensure fairness for all pupils, including those with SEN or disabilities. We do not disadvantage or discriminate against pupils with special educational needs or disabilities when allocating places. All decisions

are made in line with the SEND Code of Practice and Equality Act 2010, ensuring equal access for all.

## **7.1 Accessibility arrangements**

At Staplehurst School, we are dedicated to ensuring that all pupils, including those with disabilities, are treated with respect and fairness. We have taken the following steps to ensure accessibility:

### **Preventing Unfavourable Treatment:**

We actively prevent disabled pupils from being treated less favourably than their peers. All staff are trained in inclusive practices, and our policies and procedures are designed to promote equal opportunities for pupils with disabilities. We work closely with parents, carers, and external agencies to ensure that all reasonable adjustments are made to meet the needs of each child.

### **Facilities for Disabled Pupils:**

Our school provides a range of facilities and support to ensure disabled pupils can fully access the curriculum and participate in all areas of school life. These include physical adjustments to our environment, such as ramps and accessible toilets, as well as the provision of auxiliary aids and services such as specialist equipment, technology, and additional adult support when needed.

### **Accessibility Plan:**

Our school's Accessibility Plan outlines our ongoing commitment to improving access for disabled pupils. It includes steps to:

- Increase Participation in the Curriculum: We continually adapt our curriculum to meet the needs of all pupils, ensuring that disabled pupils can fully engage with learning through differentiated teaching and tailored support.
- Improve the Physical Environment: We are committed to improving the physical environment of our school, making it more accessible to pupils with disabilities. This includes regular reviews of facilities and identifying areas for improvement to ensure equal access.
- Enhance Access to Information: We strive to ensure that all information is accessible to disabled pupils, providing resources in alternative formats as needed and ensuring that communication methods meet the diverse needs of our pupils.

You can find our full Equality Policy and Accessibility Plan on the school website, which details our ongoing efforts to ensure that Staplehurst School remains fully inclusive and accessible to all.

See Equality Policy and Accessibility Plan for further information.

## **8. Our school approach to SEN provision**

At Staplehurst School, we are proud to provide a welcoming and inclusive environment where every child can thrive, regardless of their individual needs. We are well-equipped to support a wide range of frequently occurring special educational needs, such as dyslexia, dyspraxia, speech and language difficulties, Autism, learning difficulties, and social, emotional, and behavioural needs. We believe in the potential of every child and are dedicated to tailoring our support to help them succeed.

For less frequently occurring special educational needs, we are proactive in accessing specialist training and expert advice, ensuring that we can meet the diverse needs of all pupils in our care. Our commitment to inclusion means that we continually evolve and grow our provision to embrace every child, no matter their needs.

In addition, we currently meet the needs of pupils with Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs), including those with significant Physical Impairments, Communication and Interaction Needs, and Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs. Our staff work closely with families, specialists, and external agencies to provide personalised, high-quality support that ensures every child has the opportunity to thrive.

At Staplehurst School, we celebrate diversity, promote inclusion, and are passionate about empowering all pupils to reach their full potential in a supportive and caring environment.

## **8.1 The kinds of special educational need for which provision is made**

At Staplehurst School, provision is made to support pupils with additional needs irrespective of whether a pupil has an education health and care plan in conjunction with The Continuum of Provision and Need and using the Graduated Approach.

At Staplehurst School, we will ensure our 'best endeavours' to meet the needs of pupils with an Educational Health and Care Plan (EHCP) with the following kinds of special educational need: Cognition and Learning Difficulties, Communication and Interaction, Sensory and/or Physical Needs and Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs. Decisions on the admission of pupils with an EHCP are made by the Local Authority.

## **8.2 The identification and assessment of pupils with special educational needs**

In line with the SEND Code of Practice (DfE/DoH 2015) pupils at Staplehurst School are identified as either having no SEN, having SEN with support, or having a SEN with an Educational Health and Care Plan.

At Staplehurst School, progress is closely monitored throughout the year, however pupils with SEN may have more frequent assessments. Teachers carry out regular

assessments to track progress and identify pupils who despite using high quality inclusive teaching strategies are:

- Working significantly slower than their peers who have the same starting point.
- Are unable to maintain or improve their progress rate
- Are unable to close the attainment gap in line with their peers or the gap is widening.

This may also include progress and development in areas other than academic attainment such as social, emotional, and physical.

To support pupils, the school use a range of assessments to review and monitor the broader developmental needs and progress of all pupils such as reading assessments and speech and language screenings. These tests will enable the early identification of difficulties that a pupil may present. Information collected from the testing will inform the appropriate intervention and provision to support progress and outcomes.

Teachers at Staplehurst School are responsible for classroom provision delivering a well sequenced and resourced curriculum and use high quality inclusive teaching strategies which are scaffolded, with adaptations made to meet a pupil's needs.

When teachers identify an area where a pupil is making slow progress or where they have concerns, they will follow the school's early identification of need's protocols. Teachers will inform parents/carers at an early stage to make them aware and discuss the further supporting strategies that the teacher will use to help the pupil.

However, if progress does not improve the teacher will inform the SENCO to have an initial discussion about whether this lack of progress may be due to a special educational need. In this instance, the SENCO will, in consultation with the pupil's parents/carers, discuss further support and assessment.

The purpose of a more detailed assessment will identify what additional resources and/or different approach is required to enable the pupil to make better progress. These will be shared with parents/carers, written into SEN provision plans, which are regularly reviewed, refined, and revised. At this point the SENCO will have identified that the pupil has an additional need because the school is making provision for the pupil which is additional and different to what is normally available. Teachers will be informed throughout the process, and training will be delivered to ensure the provision is of a high quality.

It is important to note as stated in the SEND Code of Practice (DfE/DoH,2015 6.23) that slower than expected progress and lower attainment does not automatically mean a pupil would be recorded as having SEN. Potential short-term causes of impact on behaviour or performance will be considered, such as bullying or bereavement. Staff will also take particular care in identifying and assessing SEN for pupils whose first language is not English.

If the pupil is able to make good progress using this additional and different resource but would not be able to maintain this good progress without it, the school will continue to identify the pupils having special educational need. If the pupil is able to make good progress without the additional or different resources, they will not be

identified as having special educational needs. When any change of identification of SEN is amended, parents/carers will be notified.

If a pupil is joining the school, and:

- Their previous setting has already identified that they have SEN
- They are known to external agencies
- They have an education, health and care plan (EHCP)

then the school will work in a multi-agency way to make sure we get relevant information before the pupil starts at school, so support can be put in place as early as possible.

The school will ensure that all teachers and support staff who work with a pupil with SEN or have an additional need are made fully aware of the provision that each individual pupil requires.

### **8.3 Consulting with 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 an early discussion with the pupil and their parents. These conversations will make sure that:

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

Notes of these early discussions will be added to the pupil's record and given to their parents.

We will formally notify parents if it is decided that a pupil will receive special educational provision.

## **9. Assessing, Monitoring, Reviewing and Evaluating Progress towards Outcomes**

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

### **1. Assess**

The pupil's class teacher and the SENCO will carry out a clear analysis of the pupil's needs. The views of the pupil and their parents will be taken into account. The school may also seek advice from external support services.

The assessment will be reviewed regularly to help make sure that the support in place is matched to the pupil's need. For many pupils, the most reliable way to identify needs is to observe the way they respond to an intervention.

## **2. Plan**

In consultation with the parents and the pupil, the teacher and the SENCO will decide which adjustments, interventions and support will be put into place, the expected outcomes, and a clear date for review.

All staff who work with the pupil will be made aware of the pupil's needs, the outcomes sought, the support provided and any teaching strategies or approaches that are needed. This information will be recorded on our management information system, SIMS, and will be made accessible to staff in a pupil profile.

Parents will be fully aware of the planned support and interventions, and may be asked to reinforce or contribute to progress at home.

## **3. Do**

The pupil's class or subject teacher retains overall responsibility for their progress.

Where the plan involves group or 1-to-1 teaching away from the main class or subject teacher, they still retain responsibility for the pupil. They will work closely with any teaching assistants or specialist staff involved, to plan and assess the impact of support and interventions and how they can be linked to classroom teaching.

The SENCO will support the teacher in further assessing the pupil's particular strengths and weaknesses, in problem solving and advising on how to implement support effectively.

## **4. Review**

The effectiveness of the support and interventions and their impact on the pupil's progress will be reviewed in line with the agreed date.

We will evaluate the impact and quality of the support and interventions. This evaluation will be based on:

- The views of the parents and pupils
- The level of progress the pupil has made towards their outcomes
- The views of teaching staff who work with the pupil

The teacher and the SENCO will revise the outcomes and support in light of the pupil's progress and development, and in consultation with the pupil and their parents.

## **7.5 Evaluating the effectiveness of SEN provision**

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

- Tracking pupils' progress, including by using provision maps

- Carrying out the review stage of the graduated approach in every cycle of SEN support
- Collecting pupil voice
- Monitoring by the SENCO
- Holding annual reviews for pupils with EHC plans
- Getting feedback from the pupil and their parents

Where these evaluations do not show adequate progress is being made the SEN support plan will be reviewed and adjusted.

At all times teachers and support staff who work closely with the pupil will be made aware of their needs, provision plan outcomes, key strategies, provision and approaches to support them throughout the school day. Any changes to provision will be communicated in a timely manner through the school's SEN protocols and processes as set out in the SEN Information Report.

This policy and SEN Information Report will be reviewed by the SENCo every year. It will also be updated to reflect any changes to the information or statutory policy.

The policy will be approved by the governing body and available to read and refer to on the school's website.

## **10. Complaints about SEND Provision**

Staplehurst School's complaints procedure can be found on the school website.

Where parents have concerns about our school's SEND provision, they should first raise their concerns informally with the class teacher or SENCo. We will try to resolve the complaint informally in the first instance. If this does not resolve their concerns, parents are welcome to escalate their complaint in line with the school's Complaints Policy.

If the parent or carer is not satisfied with the school's response, they can escalate the complaint. In some circumstances, this right also applies to the pupil themselves. We encourage parents to discuss their concerns with their class teacher, the SENCo or Headteacher to resolve the issue before making the complaint formal.

Parents/carers of pupils with disabilities have the right to make disability discrimination claims to the first tier SEND tribunal if they believe that the school has discriminated against their child. They can make a claim about alleged discrimination regarding:

- Exclusions
- Provision of education and associated services
- Making reasonable adjustments, including the provision of auxiliary aids and services

All complaints relating to a named member of staff must be sent to the headteacher/principal.

If a complaint is not resolved after it has been considered by the governing body and you are not satisfied with the school's response, you can escalate the complaint. In some circumstances, this right also applies to the pupil themselves.

To see a full explanation of suitable avenues for complaint, pages 246 and 247 of the SEND Code of Practice [SEND Code of Practice](#)

To find out about disagreement resolution and mediation services in our local area, visit <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs/listening-to-your-voice-and-taking-action/Information-Advice-and-Support-Kent>. You can request mediation by contacting Kent Parent Partnership Service.

## 11. Glossary and SEND Acronyms

- **Access arrangements** – special arrangements to allow pupils with SEND to access assessments or exams
- **Annual review** – an annual meeting to review the provision in a pupil's EHC plan
- **Area of need** – the 4 areas of need describe different types of needs a pupil with SEND can have. The 4 areas are communication and interaction; cognition and learning; physical and/or sensory; and social, emotional and mental health needs.
- **EHC needs assessment** – the needs assessment is the first step on the way to securing an EHC plan. The local authority will do an assessment to decide whether a child needs an EHC plan.
- **EHC plan** – an education, health and care plan is a legally-binding document that sets out a child's needs and the provision that will be put in place to meet their needs.
- **First-tier tribunal/SEND tribunal** – a court where you can appeal against the local authority's decisions about EHC needs assessments or plans and against discrimination by a school or local authority due to SEND
- **Graduated approach** – an approach to providing SEND support in which the school provides support in successive cycles of assessing the pupil's needs, planning the provision, implementing the plan, and reviewing the impact of the action on the pupil
- **Intervention** – a short-term, targeted approach to teaching a pupil with a specific outcome in mind
- **Local offer** – information provided by the local authority which explains what services and support are on offer for pupils with SEND in the local area
- **Outcome** – target for improvement for pupils with SEND. These targets do not necessarily have to be related to academic attainment
- **Reasonable adjustments** – changes that the school must make to remove or reduce any disadvantages caused by a child's disability
- **SENCO** – the special educational needs co-ordinator
- **SEN** – special educational needs
- **SEND** – special educational needs and disabilities
- **SEND Code of Practice** – the statutory guidance that schools must follow to support pupils with SEND
- **SEND information report** – a report that schools must publish on their website, that explains how the school supports pupils with SEND
- **SEND support** – special educational provision which meets the needs of pupils with SEND
- **Transition** – when a pupil moves between years, phases, schools or institutions or life stages

## Appendix 1 - SEN Pathway

### The SEN Pathway

