



SEND Policy

Date Reviewed and approved: November 2023

Next Review Date: November 2024

Signed: *Pam Woohy.*

Chair of the Board of Directors

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SEND Trustee – Mrs Kendra Brownless

At Melrose Learning Trust, we believe that every child, whatever his or her ability, should have the opportunity to access every area of the curriculum to enable him / her to achieve personal potential academically, socially and emotionally and fully participate in school life.

1. Definition of Special Educational Needs

At the heart of every primary school is a continuous cycle of planning, teaching and assessing which takes account of the wide range of abilities, aptitudes and interests of children. The majority of children will learn and progress within these arrangements. Those children whose overall attainments, or attainments in specific areas fall significantly outside the expected range may have special educational needs.

Special Educational Needs can display themselves in many different ways. These needs may be from any of the following categories:

- **Academic (Cognition and Learning)**

A child may have a learning difficulty, if the child has significantly greater difficulty than the majority of children at that age and if the child falls below the normal range of achievement in that age group. Academic difficulties can be categorised into Severe, Specific, General and Moderate Learning Difficulties.

- **Physical/Medical (PD)**

A child may have a persistent or temporary physical disability or medical problem which affects their learning, e.g. MS/ME, Cystic Fibrosis, Neurofibromatosis, Speech or Motor difficulties.

- **Emotional and Behavioural (SEMH)**

A child may have a pattern of behaviour which restricts his / her learning, whether they are withdrawn or highly disruptive.

- **Social (SEMH)**

A child's progress may be affected by social circumstances such as a series of home or school moves, family breakdown, bereavement.

- **Sensory Impairment (PD)**

A child may have a hearing or visual impairment which could significantly affect their level of progress

Children must not be regarded as having a learning difficulty solely because the language or form of language of their home is different from the language in which they will be taught.

Schools will use their best endeavours to ensure that teaching staff in the school are able to identify and provide for those children who have special educational needs and disabilities, so far as is reasonably practical and compatible with the child receiving special educational provision.

Schools will have recourse to the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice when carrying out their duties towards all pupils with special educational needs and ensure that parents are consulted of a decision by the school that SEND provision is being made for their child.

Partnership with parents plays a key role in enabling children with SEND to achieve their potential. The Trust recognises that the parents hold key information and have knowledge and experience to contribute to the shared view of the child's needs and the best way of supporting them. All parents of children with special educational needs will be treated as partners and supported to play an active and valued role in their children's education.

Children with special educational needs often have a unique knowledge of their own needs and their views about what sort of help they would like to help them make the most of their education will be ascertained. They will be encouraged to participate in all the decision-making processes and contribute to the assessment of their needs, the review and the transition process.

2. Identification, Assessment and Provision

Provision for children with educational special needs is a matter for the whole school. In addition to the Local Governing Body, the Head teacher, the SENDCo and all other members of staff have important day-to-day responsibilities. All teachers are teachers of children with special educational needs. Teaching such children is therefore a whole school responsibility.

It is our Trust's aim to identify children with a special educational need as soon as possible in order to plan and implement adequate provision. This is achieved through a combination of monitoring strategies by the school's SENDCo -rigorous analysis of assessment data, regular meetings with class teachers (both formal and informal), annual reviews and regular meetings with other professionals, such as educational psychologists.

2.1 Identification and Assessment

Schools will assess each child's current levels of attainment on entry in order to ensure that they build upon the pattern of learning already established during the child's pre-school years or time in a previous school. This information is tracked using the school system. Children are assessed regularly across the year in reading, writing and maths. These results are monitored by the SENDCo and the senior leadership team in line with assessment points and any identified children are discussed with necessary staff and provision is made. If the child already has an identified special educational need or disability, this information will be transferred from the previous setting - the SENDCo and the class teacher will use this information to:

- provide starting points for the development of an appropriate curriculum
- to inform the academic thresholds
- identify and focus attention on action to support the child within the class and/or in the school provision map
- use assessment processes to identify any learning difficulties
- ensure ongoing observation and assessment provide regular feedback about the child's achievements and experiences to form the basis for planning the next steps of the child's learning
- involve parents in implementing a joint learning approach at home.

The identification and assessment of the special needs of children whose first language is not English, requires particular care. Where there is uncertainty about a particular child,

teachers will look carefully at aspects of a child's performance in different subjects to establish whether the problems they have in the classroom are due to limitations in the command of the language that is used there or arise from special educational needs.

In order to help children who have special educational needs, schools will record the steps taken to meet the needs of individual children. Children on the SEND register could be given a support plan if required or provided with specific interventions. The school SENDCo will have the responsibility for ensuring that the records are maintained and available when required. The school SENDCo will meet with teachers at least termly to discuss the progress made by children on the intervention programmes.

3.0 Role of the Trustees

Responsibilities include, making sure that:

- they are fully involved in developing and monitoring the Trust's SEND policy
- all Trustees, especially the SEND Trustee, are up to date and knowledgeable about the Trust's SEND provision, including an overview of how funding, equipment and personnel resources are deployed
- SEND provision is an integral part of the Trust's and individual schools' development plans
- the quality of SEND provision is continually monitored.

4.0 Role of the Local Governing Body

Responsibilities include, making sure that:

- they are fully involved in monitoring the Trust's SEND policy
- all governors, especially any SEND governors, are up to date and knowledgeable about the school's SEND provision, including how funding, equipment and personnel resources are deployed
- SEND provision is an integral part of the school's development plan
- the quality of SEND provision is continually monitored.

5.0 Role of the SENDCo

Responsibilities include:

- overseeing the day-to-day operation of the school's SEND policy.
- co-ordinating provision for children with special educational needs
- liaising with and advising fellow teachers
- managing 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

6.0 Role of the Class Teacher

The class teacher will:

- identify each child's needs and skill levels
- read the child's file where appropriate
- advise the parents of any concerns
- provide reports for external agencies, including reviews for Child Protection
- monitor and assess progress and maintain appropriate records
- fulfil all other duties required of the class teacher by the Code of Practice
- ensure that the delivery of the curriculum allows each child to experience success.

7.0 Monitoring Children's Progress

A school's system for observing and assessing the progress of individual children provides information about areas where a child is not progressing satisfactorily. Under these circumstances the class teacher will consult with the SENDCo to consider what else might be done. This review may lead to the conclusion that the pupil needs help over and above that which is normally available within the class or subject area. The key test of the need for action is evidence that current rates of progress are inadequate. Adequate progress can be defined in a number of ways. It might be progress that:

- 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

8.0 Provision

The SENDCo and the child's class teacher will decide on the action needed to help the child to progress in the light of their earlier assessment.

This may include:

- different learning materials or equipment
- extra adult time to devise the nature of the planned intervention and to monitor its effectiveness
- some group or individual support (provision map)
- staff development and training to introduce more effective strategies
- access to LA support services for one-off or occasional advice on strategies or equipment.

This intervention will be recorded on the school's system.

9.0 Education Health & Care Plan (EHCP)

In this case a pupil's educational needs are recognised as requiring resources in addition to those available at the school. Provision for these pupils will be identified in their EHCP and the school will work closely with outside agencies to ensure interventions and support are provided as required, under the SENDCo's oversight. All statutory requirements in terms of reviews, EH&C Plans and best practice will be met as required under all relevant Acts including SENDA 2001 and the Children & Families Act 2014.

10.0 Statutory Assessment of Special Educational Needs

Statutory assessment involves consideration by the LA, working co-operatively with the parents, the school and other agencies, where appropriate, as to whether a statutory assessment of the child's special educational needs is necessary.

A request for assessment may be made through the school, the parent, or a referral through another agency. Where the evidence presented to the LA suggests that the child's difficulties have not responded to relevant and purposeful measures taken by the school and external specialists and may call for special educational provision which cannot reasonably be provided within the resources normally provided by mainstream schools, the LA will consider the case for a statutory assessment of the child's special educational needs. The LA may decide that the degree of the child's learning difficulty and the nature of the provision necessary to meet the child's special educational needs is such as to require the LA to determine the child's special educational provision through a statement.

All children with statements of special educational needs will have short-term targets set for them which have been established after consultation with parents. These will include targets identified in the statement of educational need. These targets will be set out in a support plan and be implemented as far as possible in the normal classroom setting. The delivery of the interventions recorded in the support plan will continue to be the responsibility of the class teacher working with the support staff.

11.0 Annual Review of Education Health Care Plans

All EHCPs will be reviewed at least annually, with the parents, the child, the LEA, the school and any professionals involved. They will be invited to consider whether any amendments need to be made to the description of the child's needs or to the provision made within the statement. The annual review will focus on what the child has achieved as well as on any difficulties that need to be resolved.

At the review in Year 5, the aim should be to give clear recommendations as to the type of provision the child will require at the secondary stage. The SENDCo of the receiving school will be invited to the review meeting in Year 6 to allow the receiving school to plan an appropriate support plan for the start of the new school year and to reassure the parents and the child that an effective and supportive transfer will take place.

12.0 Approval by the Trust Board

The Trust will review this policy annually. This policy has been formally approved and adopted by the Trust Board.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pam Moching".

(Chair of Trust Board)