



**St Mary's Priory Catholic Infant and Junior Schools**

**Love one another**

**Always do our best**

**Take care of ourselves and the world around us**

## **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy**

**Date of approval: Spring 2026**

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## **St Mary's Mission Statement**

At St. Mary's Priory Catholic Infant and Junior Schools we strive to develop a happy, caring, healthy and secure learning environment. We seek to understand, celebrate and enhance the diversity of our community. In this calling we are encouraged by Christ as our centre and Mary as our mother.

Our Mission is:

- To love one another as Mary loves Jesus and Jesus loves us
- To do our best always
- To take care of ourselves and the world God has given us

## **OUR VISION**

Our vision is to inspire our children:

- to be people of faith, hope and love
- to become confident, independent learners for life
- to keep safe, be strong and make a positive contribution to society

## **Statement of intent**

At St. Mary's Priory we believe that all pupils are entitled to an education that enables them to achieve their best, become confident individuals living fulfilling lives, and make a successful transition into adulthood.

This policy outlines the framework the school will use in meeting its duties, obligations and principal equality values in providing an appropriate high-quality education for pupils with SEND.

Through successful implementation of this policy, the school aims to eliminate discrimination and promote equal opportunities.

The school will work with the LA, or equivalent, in ensuring that the following principles underpin this policy:

- The involvement of pupils and their parents in decision-making.
- The early identification of pupils' needs and early intervention to support them.
- A focus on inclusive practice and removing barriers to learning.
- Collaboration between education, health and social care services to provide support.
- High-quality provision to meet the needs of pupils with SEND.
- Greater choice and control for pupils and their parents over their support.
- Successful preparation for adulthood, including independent living and employment.

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. For the purposes of 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.
- A disability or health condition that prevents or hinders them from making use of educational facilities used by peers of the same age in mainstream settings.
- Special educational provision that is additional to or different from that made generally for other children or young people of the same age by mainstream settings.

### **1. Legal framework**

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- Local Government Act 1974
- Disabled Persons (Services, Consultation and Representation) Act 1986

- Children Act 1989
- Education Act 1996
- Education Act 2002
- Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Equality Act 2010
- The Equality Act 2010 (Disability) Regulations 2010
- Children and Families Act 2014
- The Special Educational Needs (Personal Budgets) Regulations 2014
- The Special Educational Needs and Disability (Amendment) Regulations 2015
- The Special Educational Needs and Disability (Detained Persons) Regulations 2015
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018
- Health and Care Act 2022

This policy has due regard to statutory and non-statutory guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (2015) 'Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years'
- DfE (2015) 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions'
- DfE (2018) 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018'
- DfE (2018) 'Mental health and wellbeing provision in schools'
- DfE (2021) 'School Admissions Code'
- DfE (2022) 'Keeping children safe in education 2022'
- Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) (2015) 'Reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Admissions Policy
- Pupil Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- 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
- Careers Policy
- Suspension and Exclusion Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Accessibility Policy

## **2. Objectives**

Every school is required to identify and address the SEND of the pupils that they support. Through the implementation of this policy, the school will:

- Use their best endeavours to make sure that pupils with SEND get the support they need to access the school's broad and balanced curriculum.

- Ensure that pupils with SEND engage in the activities of the school alongside pupils who do not have SEND.
- Ensure there is high-quality provision to meet the needs of pupils with SEND, with specific focus on inclusive practice and removing barriers to learning.
- Fulfil its statutory duties towards pupils with SEND in light of the SEND code of practice.
- Promote disability equality and equality of opportunity, fulfilling its duties under the Equality Act 2010 towards individual disabled pupils.
- Make reasonable adjustments, including the provision of auxiliary aids and services, to ensure that disabled pupils are not at a substantial disadvantage compared with their peers.
- Designate a teacher to be responsible for coordinating SEND provision, i.e. the SENCO.
- Inform parents when they are making special educational provision for their child.
- Review, prepare and publish important information about the school and its implementation of relevant SEND policies, including:
  - Accessibility plans setting out how they plan to increase access to the curriculum and the physical environment for pupils with SEND.
  - Information about the admission arrangements for pupils with SEND and the steps taken to prevent them being treated less favourably than others.
  - A SEN information report about the implementation of the school's policy for pupils with SEND.

### **3. Roles and responsibilities**

The governing board will be responsible for:

- Ensuring this policy is implemented fairly and consistently across the school.
- Ensuring the school meets its duties in relation to supporting pupils with SEND.
- Ensuring that there is a qualified teacher designated as SENCO for the school.

The head teacher is responsible for ensuring the school offers a broad and balanced curriculum, with high quality teaching and a positive and enriching educational experience of for all pupils, including pupils with SEND.

In enacting this policy, the headteacher will:

- Ensure the school holds ambitious expectations for all pupils with SEND.
- Establish and sustain culture and practices that enable pupils with SEND to access the curriculum and learn effectively.
- Ensure the school works effectively in partnership with parents, carers and professionals, to identify the additional needs and SEND of pupils, providing support and adaptation where appropriate.
- Ensure the school fulfils its statutory duties with regard to the SEND code of practice.
- Work with the governing board to ensure that there is a qualified teacher designated as SENCO for the school.
- Ensure the SENCO has sufficient time and resources to carry out their functions.
- Provide the SENCO with sufficient administrative support and time away from teaching to enable them to fulfil their responsibilities.
- Regularly and carefully reviewing the quality of teaching for pupils at risk of underachievement, as a core part of the school's performance management arrangements.
- Ensure that procedures and policies for the day-to-day running of the school do not directly or indirectly discriminate against pupils with SEND.

The SENCO will be responsible for:

- Collaborating with the governing board and head teacher, as part of the SLT, to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision in the school.
- The day-to-day responsibility for the operation of SEND policy.
- The coordination of specific provision made to support individual pupils with SEND.
- Liaising with the relevant designated teacher for LAC with SEND.
- Advising on a graduated approach to providing SEND support.
- Advising on the deployment of the school's delegated budget and other resources to meet pupils' needs effectively.
- 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.
- Working with the relevant governors and the headteacher to ensure that the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010, regarding reasonable adjustments and access arrangements.
- Ensuring that the school keeps the records of all pupils with SEND up-to-date, in line with the school's Data Protection Policy.
- Providing professional guidance to colleagues, and working closely with staff, parents and other agencies.
- Being familiar with the provision in the Local Offer and being able to work with professionals who are providing a supporting role to the family.

Teachers will be responsible for:

- Planning and reviewing support for pupils with SEND on a graduated basis, 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 study the full national curriculum.
- Being accountable for the progress and development of the pupils in their class.
- Being aware of the needs, outcomes sought, 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.
- Keeping the relevant figures of authority up-to-date with any changes in behaviour, academic developments and causes of concern. The relevant figures of authority include the head teacher.

#### **4. Identifying SEND**

The school recognises that early identification and effective provision improves long-term outcomes for pupils. As part of the overall approach to monitoring the progress and development of all pupils, it

has a clear approach to identifying and responding to SEND as outlined in the school's SEN Information Report.

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 given their age and individual circumstances.

'Less than expected progress' will be characterised by progress which:

- Is significantly slower than that of their peers starting from the same baseline.
- Does not match or better the pupil's previous rate of progress.
- Fails to close the attainment gap between them and their peers.
- Widens the attainment gap.
- The school plans, manages and reviews SEND provision across the following four broad areas of need:

- **Communication and interaction**

Speech, language and communication needs (SLCN)  
Autistic spectrum disorder (ASD)

- **Cognition and learning**

Specific learning difficulty (SpLD) eg: dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia  
Moderate learning difficulty (MLD)  
Severe learning difficulty (SLD)  
Profound and multiple learning difficulty (PMLD)

- **Social, mental and emotional health**

Social and emotional difficulties appear through a child becoming withdrawn or isolated. They can also start to display challenging, disruptive or aggressive behaviour. These behaviours may be a symptom of anxiety, depression, self-harming, substance misuse and eating disorders.

- **Sensory and/or physical**

Visual impairment (VI)  
Hearing Impairment (HI)  
Multi-sensory Impairment (MSI)  
Physical Disability (PD)

Teachers are responsible and accountable for the progress and development of children in their class, including children who receive additional support from a teaching assistant or specialist staff. All staff are responsible for identifying children with special needs and will work alongside the SENCo to ensure that they are identified at an early stage. Staff are encouraged to fill in an initial concern form, which is then passed on to the SENCo, who will then explore the matter further. It will then be discussed with parents before any decision is made.

Concerns raised at pupil progress meetings, and on initial concern forms, will also be discussed with parents, and if they are in agreement then the child will be added to the school's SEN support register and offered additional support. This is only after certain questions are answered on the initial concern form:

- What has been put in place before – has quality first teaching taken place?
- What adjustments have been made in class/during lessons to cater for the child's needs?
- Are they still failing to make adequate progress even after all of this?

The following steps are taken when needs are identified:

**Wave 1:** Initially, children receive inclusive **quality first teaching** for all, using adaptive teaching strategies, extra support, either through additional adults and/or additional materials and resources, to reduce or remove barriers to learning. Some children at this level may be on our concern list as we are carefully tracking and reviewing their progress.

Teacher Actions:

- Review Pupil Progress
- Plan strategy of support - What are the barriers to learning? What changes can be made that will better support the needs of the child? What resources will support access to learning and understanding?
- Implement planned strategies

**Wave 2:** If concerns continue or increase, then children may receive additional, time-limited and targeted interventions to accelerate their progress to help them work at age-related expectations.

Teacher Actions:

- Complete Initial Concern form
- Review pupil progress and Plan targeted intervention
- Consider specific area of SEN - Complete the neurodiversity check list
- Implement relevant strategies linked to the neurodiversity checklist
- Discussion with SENCO about strategies
- Generate IEP with specific targets
- Discussion with parents

**Wave 3:** If there are still concerns, children will receive highly personalised interventions to accelerate their progress and enable them to achieve their potential, with the possibility of outside agency support. At this point there would be considerations of SEN.

**Teacher Actions:**

- Collection of evidence of needs and how needs are currently being support.
- Discussion with SENCO/SENCO observation
- Discussion/meeting with parents
- Use of further assessments tools to screen specific area of SEN
- SENCO considers Referral to outside professional

This may be a short term measure in order for them to catch up and close the gaps in their learning. For other children it will be a more sustained form of support throughout their education.

In order to support these children, staff will follow the process of *assess, plan, do* and *review*. Staff will plan the support, put it in place and it will then be reviewed at the next IEP (Individual Education Plan) meeting. Children on the SEN support register will have an IEP and this will be reviewed each term, by the class teacher, SENCo and parent/guardian. If significant progress is then made over time, it may be agreed that the child is removed from the register. However, if a child continues to be a cause for concern, despite SEN support, the school, in agreement with parents/guardians, will fill in a single-agency referral form in order to receive specialist advice and support.

## **5. Safeguarding**

The school recognises that evidence shows pupils with SEND are at a greater risk of abuse and maltreatment, so 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 child-on-child abuse, neglect, and sexual violence and harassment.

The school recognises that there are additional barriers to recognising abuse and neglect in this group of pupils. These barriers include, but 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 headteacher 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 physical intervention and 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 Physical Intervention 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.

## **6. SEND support**

The school is aware of its statutory duty to provide a broad and balanced curriculum and recognise that high quality teaching, which is differentiated for individual pupils, is the first step in responding to pupils who have or may have SEND. At St. Mary's we firmly believe that Quality first teaching is the most effective way of supporting the neurodiversity of any class. Staff are supported by the SENCO and SLT to use adaptive teaching strategies to support the needs of all of the children and various learners within their class.

Teachers at the school will:

- Set high expectations for every pupil.
- Plan stretching work for pupils whose attainment is significantly above the expected standard.
- Plan lessons for pupils who have low levels of prior attainment or come from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Use appropriate assessment to set targets which are deliberately ambitious.
- Plan lessons to ensure that there are no barriers to every pupil achieving.
- Be responsible and accountable for the progress and development of the pupils in their class, including where pupils access support from teaching assistants or specialist staff.

Decisions on whether to make special educational provision for pupils will be based upon:

- Discussions between the teacher and SENCO.
- Analysis of the pupil's progress – using internal formative and summative assessments, alongside national data and expectations of progress.
- Discussion with the pupil and their parent.
- 

Once a pupil has been identified with SEND, the school will employ a graduated approach to meeting the pupil's needs. This will be through the adoption of a four-part cycle – **assess, plan, do, review** – whereby earlier decisions and actions are revisited, refined and revised with a growing understanding of the pupil's needs and of what supports the pupil in making good progress and securing good outcomes. The process is as follows:

- **Assess:** establishing a clear assessment of the pupil's needs
- **Plan:** agreeing the adjustments, interventions and support to be put in place, as well as the expected impact on progress, development or behaviour, along with a clear date for review
- **Do:** implementing the agreed interventions and support
- **Review:** analysing the effectiveness of the interventions and their impact on the pupil's progress in line with the agreed review date

Where higher levels of need are identified, the school will access specialised assessments from external agencies and professionals.

Where, despite the school having taken relevant and purposeful action to identify, assess and meet the SEN of a pupil, they have not made expected progress, the school, in consultation with parents, will consider requesting an Education, Health and Care needs assessment.

Teachers use Quality first teaching (adapting work to suit the needs of all learners) to support children with special needs in class. Most needs will be met in class but others will be met during targeted intervention groups, focusing on the gaps in their learning.

Additional support/strategies may include one or more of the following:

- Targeted support in class
- Additional or adapted resources to assist in lessons and scaffold learning
- Alternative methods of recording
- Additional behaviour management strategies/techniques
- Visual resources / structured aids
- Project X groups to help to develop reading
- Weekly counselling sessions
- Write from the start
- Nesses
- Little Wandle
- Zones of regulation
- Learning mentor
- Trailblazers (Camhs)
- Home/school liaison
- Language link groups

When all of the above strategies are used and not impacting to help the child to make sufficient progress, the single referral form will be completed to be able to access one of the following outside agencies:

- Educational Welfare Officer
- Educational Psychology Service (EP)
- Speech and Language Therapy Service
- Early Help
- CAMHS – Child & Mental Health Service
- Occupational Therapy (OT)
- Community Paediatric Medical Team – Social Communication Clinic or Neurodevelopmental Clinic

These outside agencies will then work with the school and families to support the child's needs further. This support will be given and will continue until the professionals believe that it is no longer needed. Occasionally, for some children they might still be making insufficient progress, despite outside agency involvement. In this case the professionals involved and the school might decide to apply to the local authority (LA) for a statutory assessment to be carried out (applying for an education and health care plan). Both parents and children will be fully informed throughout. This can only be applied for when sufficient evidence is gathered through the assess, plan, do, review cycle, providing 2 cycles (two terms) of evidence that has been acted on as a result of external advice from other agencies.

### **7. EHC plans (Education, Health and Care plans)**

This could then result in the child receiving an EHC plan assessment. When the LA agree to a statutory assessment, this could potentially result in an Education, Health and Care plan (EHC) being allocated under the provisions of the SEND code of practice 0-25. This would then be reviewed every year (after the EHC plan has been issued) at an annual review, when all professionals and persons involved would revise the EHC plan as the needs of the child may change. If parents wish to, they can also apply for the EHC plan independently. Although, the LA could also reject the application, asking the school and professionals to continue to support the child as they have.

### **8. EAL**

The school is aware that there may be pupils at the school for whom English is not their first language and appreciates that 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 consider the pupil within the context of their home, culture and community and 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.

### **9. Early year's pupils with SEND**

All early years providers are required to have arrangements in place to identify and support children with SEND and to promote equality of opportunity for children in their care. These requirements are set out in the EYFS framework.

The school will ensure all staff who work with young children are alert to emerging difficulties and respond early.

At St. Mary's Priory we will:

- Ensure that staff listen and understand when parents express concerns about their child's development, as well as listening to any concerns raised by children themselves.
- Monitor and review the progress and development of all children throughout the early years.
- Use its best endeavours to make sure that a child with SEND gets the support they need.
- Ensure that children with SEND engage in the activities of school alongside children who do not have SEND.
- Designate a teacher to be the SENCO.
- Provide information for parents on how it supports children with SEND.
- Prepare a report on the:
  - Implementation of SEND policy and procedures.
  - Arrangements for the admission of children with SEND.
  - Steps being taken to prevent children with SEND from being treated less favourably than others.
  - Facilities provided to enable access to the school for children with SEND.
  - Accessibility plan showing how it plans to improve access over time.
- Inform parents when the school makes special educational provision for their child.
- Follow a graduated approach to assessing, planning, implementing, and reviewing provision and progress – the 'assess, plan, do, review' cycle.

## **10. Admissions**

St. Mary's Priory will ensure it meets its duties set under the DfE's 'School Admissions Code' by:

- Not refusing admission for a child thought to be potentially disruptive, or likely to exhibit challenging behaviour, on the grounds that the child is first to be assessed for SEND.
- Not refusing admission for a child that has named the school in their EHC plan.
- Considering applications from parents of children who have SEND but do not have an EHC plan.
- Not refusing admission for a child who has SEND but does not have an EHC plan because the school does not feel able to cater for those needs.
- Not refusing admission for a child who does not have an EHC plan.
- Not discriminating against or disadvantaging applicants with SEND.
- Ensuring policies relating to school uniform and trips do not discourage parents of pupils with SEND from applying for a place.
- Adopting fair practices and arrangements in accordance with the 'School Admissions Code' for the admission of children without an EHC plan.
- Ensuring the school's oversubscription arrangements will not disadvantage children with SEND.

Ensuring that tests for selection are accessible to children with SEND, with reasonable adjustments made where necessary.

Arrangements for the fair admissions of pupils with SEND are outlined in the Admissions Policy and will be published on the school website.

## **11. Transition**

At St./ Mary's Priory we are aware of the importance of planning and preparing for the transitions between phases of education and preparation for adult life.

Where pupils have EHC plans, these will be reviewed and amended in sufficient time prior to a pupil moving between key phases of education, to allow for planning for and, where necessary, commissioning of support and provision at the new setting. The school will work closely with secondary school settings and specialists (eg: LAST team and trailblazers) to ensure that children are fully supported and prepared for the changes in setting. We will work with individuals and classes to prepare the children for their secondary education.

### **Links with other Schools and Transfer Arrangements**

- SEN records are transferred following Local Authority procedures when a child leaves to go to a new school
- there are opportunities for all pupils to visit their prospective secondary school.
- Children with SEN or who may need support at Secondary School access a Secondary Transfer Group in Year 6 to support them in developing strategies to succeed at Secondary School. This intervention is run by a Teaching Assistant who has attended specific training on delivering the intervention;
- the SENCO of the receiving school, where possible, attends the final annual review of Year 6 pupils with EHC plans for whom the particular school has been named.

### **Transfer within the school to new year groups**

- teachers liaise closely when pupils transfer to another class within the school.
- The SENCO ensures that the SEN file goes up with the class and is fully updated.
- Children are given opportunities to meet their new Class Teacher before starting a new class.
- in Nursery, Reception and Year 2 where the transition is likely to be more challenging children are given additional opportunities to visit their new class and to familiarise themselves with their new surroundings.

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

The school is committed to working in partnership with all parents in the best interests of their child and will provide an annual report for all parents on their child's progress.

Where a pupil is receiving SEND support, the school will regularly liaise with parents in setting outcomes and reviewing progress. The class teacher, will meet with the parents three times each year and will work closely with the SENCo/Inclusion lead to monitor outcomes and progress closely. IEP targets (Individual Education Plan) will be sent home for parents to review and be aware of at home, so that they can work alongside school.

The planning that the school implements will help parents and pupils with SEND express their needs, wishes and goals, and will:

- Focus on the pupil as an individual, not allowing their SEND to become a label.
- Be easy for pupils and their parents to understand by using clear, ordinary language and images, rather than professional jargon.
- Highlight the pupil's strengths and capabilities.
- Enable the pupil, and those who know them best, to say what they have done, what they are interested in and what outcomes they are seeking in the future.

- Tailor support to the needs of the individual.
- Organise assessments to minimise demands on parents.
- Bring together relevant professionals to discuss and agree together the overall approach.

Where the LA provides a pupil with an EHC plan, the school will involve the parents and the pupil in discussions surrounding how the school can best implement the plan's provisions to help the pupil thrive in their education, and will discern the expected impact of the provision on the pupil's progress.

Where necessary, the school will facilitate support from an advocate to ensure the parent's views are heard and acknowledged.

### **13. Funding for SEND support**

Where additional pupil needs are identified the school will use its delegated funding allowance to provide early intervention support for the benefit of pupils identified with SEND.

Where pupils with SEND have been receiving early intervention support but are still not making sufficient progress, the school will consider accessing high needs top-up funding from the LA to provide additional specialist support. Funding can also be applied for in the nursery setting, in the form of 'Top Up Funding' and will support with resources and interventions. It will also enable us to gather additional evidence, if the decision is made to apply for an EHC plan as the child moves in reception.

### **14. EHC needs assessments and plans**

St. Mary's Priory recognises that, despite having taken relevant and purposeful action to identify, assess and meet the SEND of a pupil, some pupils may not make expected levels of progress. In these cases, the school will consult with parents and consider requesting an EHC needs assessment.

The purpose of an EHC plan is to make special educational provision to meet the SEND of the pupil, to secure the best possible outcomes for them across education, health and social care and prepare them for adulthood.

As part of the EHC needs assessment, the school will meet its duty by:

- Responding to any request for information as part of the EHC needs assessment process within six weeks from the date of the request, unless special exemptions apply as outlined in the SEND code of practice.
- Providing the LA with any school-specific information and evidence about the pupil's profile and educational progress.
- Gathering any advice received from relevant professionals regarding their education, health and care needs, desired outcomes, and any special education, health and care provision that may be required to meet their identified needs and achieve desired outcomes.

If, following the assessment, the LA decides not to issue an EHC plan, the school will be provided with written feedback collected during the EHC needs. It will use this information to contribute to the graduated approach and inform how the outcomes sought for the pupil can be achieved through further special educational provision made by the school and its partners.

Where the LA decides to issue an EHC plan, it must consult the prospective school by sending a copy of the draft plan and consider their comments before deciding whether to name it in the pupil's EHC plan. The school will meet its duty to provide views on a draft EHC plan within 15 days.

The school will admit any pupil that names the school in an EHC plan and will ensure that all those teaching or working with a pupil named in an EHC plan are aware of the pupil's needs and that arrangements are in place to meet them.

When an EHC plan is issued or updated, the LA will consult the school and allow the school to decide whether or not they are able to meet the needs of the child in a mainstream setting. The school is able to state whether or not they feel that they are, or are not, able to meet the needs of the child. This could potentially result in the LA consulting a different setting.

### **15. Reviewing EHC plans**

The school will ensure that teachers monitor and review the pupil's progress during the year and conduct a formal review of the EHC plan at least annually.

The school will:

- Cooperate with the LA and relevant individuals to ensure an annual review meeting takes place, including convening the meeting on behalf of the LA if requested.
- Ensure that the appropriate people are given at least two weeks' notice of the date of the meeting, such as representatives from the LA SEN, social care and health services.
- Seek advice and information about the pupil prior to the annual review meeting from all parties invited, and send any information gathered to all those invited, at least two weeks in advance of the meeting.
- Ensure that sufficient arrangements are put in place at the school to host the annual review meeting.
- Contribute any relevant information and recommendations about the EHC plan to the LA, keeping parents involved at all times.
- Lead the review of the EHC plan to create the greatest confidence amongst pupils and their parents.
- Prepare and send a report of the meeting to everyone invited within two weeks of the meeting, setting out any recommendations and amendments to the EHC plan.
- Clarify to the parents and pupil that they have the right to appeal the decisions made regarding the EHC plan.
- Where possible for LAC, combine the annual review with one of the reviews in their care plan, in particular the personal education plan (PEP) element.
- Where necessary, provide support from an advocate to ensure the pupil's views are heard and acknowledged.
- Where necessary, facilitate support from an advocate to ensure the parent's views are heard and acknowledged.
- 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 at least six months after an initial assessment. Thereafter, the governing board or headteacher will request the LA to conduct a re-assessment of a pupil whenever they feel it is necessary.

The LA now consult school annually after an annual review to ensure that we can still meet the needs of the child. This again, could result in a change of setting.

## **16. Supporting successful preparation for adulthood**

St. Mary's Priory is aware that being supported towards greater independence and employability can be life-transforming for pupils with SEND. It recognises the importance of starting early, centring on pupil aspirations, interests and needs, and will ensure that pupils are supported at developmentally appropriate levels to make a smooth transition to what they will be doing next, e.g. moving on to higher education.

The school will:

- Seek to understand the interests, strengths and motivations of pupils and use this as a basis for planning support around them.
- Support pupils so that they are included in social groups and develop friendships.
- Ensure that pupils with SEND engage in the activities of the school together with those who do not have SEND, and are encouraged to participate fully in the life of the school and in any wider community activity.
- Engage with secondary schools, as necessary, to help plan for any transitions.

## **17. Managing complaints**

The school will publish the Complaints Procedure Policy on the school website.

Following a parent's serious complaint or disagreement about the SEND provision being made for their child, the school will contact the LA immediately to seek disagreement resolution advice, regardless of whether an EHC plan is in place.

At St. Mary's Priory we are aware of the formal and informal arrangements for resolving disagreements at a local level and will work with the LA in responding to requests for information as part of procedures for:

- Disagreement resolution.
- Mediation.
- Appeals to the SEND Tribunal.

Parents will be made aware that Ofsted can consider complaints relating to whole-school SEND early years provision if the problem has not been resolved informally.

The school will meet any request to attend a SEND tribunal and explain any departure from its duties and obligations under the 'Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years'.

## **18. Staff training and improving practice**

At St. Mary's Priory we are committed to the learning and development of all its staff members and training opportunities will be provided and delivered in line with the school's CPD and Training Policy.

The school SENCO will assess staff competencies and ensure that CPD provision allows staff to develop their awareness, skills, and practices in identifying, educating, and assessing pupils with SEND.

Annually we ensure that the relevant staff take part in HEP SEND CPD relating to various SEND areas. In addition to this, we work closely with Occupational therapists, the LAST team, the speech and language therapist, CAMHs and Trailbalzers, to ensure that staff are able to meet the child's needs in collaboration with outside professionals. We will always seek advice, support and further training when we feel that we are not fully meeting the needs of the child.

### **Further Staff Development**

- the SENCO attends the SENCO network forums and Conferences termly in the LA.
- information is then fed back to the Head teacher and other staff where necessary.
- whole staff in-service training sessions are arranged as appropriate, in response to particular needs within the school
- the SENCO and other staff attend Local Authority meetings and INSET when relevant
- newly appointed teaching and support staff meet the SENCO to discuss SEN procedures in the school.

## **19. Use of data and record keeping**

All information about pupils will be kept in accordance with the school's Records Management Policy and Data Protection Policy.

The school's records will:

- Record details of additional or different provision made under SEND support, with accurate information to evidence the SEND support that has been provided over the pupil's time in the school, as well as its impact, e.g. through the use of provision maps.
- Include details of SEND, outcomes, action, agreed support, teaching strategies and the involvement of specialists, as part of its standard management information system to monitor the progress, behaviour and development of all pupils.
- Maintain an accurate and up-to-date register of the provision made for pupils with SEND.
- Be kept securely so that unauthorised persons do not have access to it, so far as reasonably practicable.

The school keeps data on the levels and types of need within the school and makes this available to the LA and Ofsted.

### **Confidentiality**

The school will not disclose any EHC plan without the consent of the pupil's parents, except for specified purposes or in the interests of the pupil, such as disclosure:

- To a SEND tribunal when parents appeal, and to the Secretary of State under the Education Act 1996.
- On the order of any court for any criminal proceedings.
- For the purposes of investigations of maladministration under the Local Government Act 1974.
- To enable any authority to perform duties arising from the Disabled Persons (Services, Consultation and Representation) Act 1986, or from the Children Act 1989 relating to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
- To Ofsted inspection teams as part of their inspections of schools and LAs.
- To any person in connection with the pupil's application for students with disabilities allowance in advance of taking up a place in HE.
- To the headteacher (or equivalent position) of the setting at which the pupil is intending to start their next phase of education.

The school will adhere to the Pupil Confidentiality Policy at all times.

## **20. Publishing information**

The school will publish information on the school website about the implementation of this policy.

The information published will be updated annually and any changes to the information occurring during the year will be updated as soon as possible.

The SEN Information Report will be prepared by the governing board and will be published on the school website. It will include all the information outlined in paragraphs 6.79 and 6.83 of the 'Special educational needs and disabilities code of practice: 0 to 25 years'.

## **21. Joint commissioning, planning and delivery**

The school will work closely with local education, health and social care services to ensure pupils get the right support.

The school will assist the LA in carrying out their statutory duties under the Children and Families Act 2014, by ensuring that services work together where this promotes children and young people's wellbeing or improves the quality of special educational provision (Section 25 of the Children and Families Act 2014).

The school will draw on the wide range of local data sets about the likely educational needs of pupils with SEND to forecast future needs, including:

- Population and demographic data.
- Prevalence data for different kinds of SEND among children at the national level.
- Numbers of local children with EHC plans and their main needs.
- The numbers and types of settings locally that work with or educate pupils with SEND.
- An analysis of local challenges or sources of health inequalities.

The school will plan, deliver and monitor services against how well outcomes have been met, including, but not limited to:

- Improved educational progress and outcomes for pupils with SEND.
- Increasing the identification of pupils with SEND prior to school entry.

Where pupils with SEND also have a medical condition, their provision will be planned and delivered in coordination with the EHC plan.

SEND support will be adapted and/or replaced depending on its effectiveness in achieving the agreed outcomes.

## **22. Local Offer**

The school's governing board will collaborate with and support the LA in developing and reviewing the Local Offer, where necessary and appropriate, to ensure that it is:

- **Collaborative:** Where appropriate, the school will work with LAs, parents and pupils in developing and reviewing the Local Offer. The school will also cooperate with those providing services.
- **Accessible:** The school will collaborate with the LA during development and review to ensure that the LA's Local Offer is easy to understand, factual and jargon-free; is structured in a way that relates to pupils' and parents' needs, e.g. by broad age group or type of special educational provision; and is well-signposted and -publicised.
- **Comprehensive:** The school will help to ensure that parents and pupils understand what support can be expected to be available across education, health and social care from age 0 to 25 and how to access it. The school will assist the LA in ensuring that the Local Offer includes eligibility criteria for services, where relevant, and makes it clear where to go for information, advice and support, as well as how to make complaints about provision or appeal against decisions.
- **Up-to-date:** The school will work with the LA to review the Local Offer to ensure that, when parents and pupils access the Local Offer, the information is up-to-date.

The school will provide the LA with information about their existing SEND provision and capabilities to support pupils with SEND to aid in the drafting of the Local Offer, where required.

## **23. Monitoring and review**

The policy is reviewed on an annual basis by the head teacher 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: Spring 2027