

BRACKENBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL



SEN Policy

September 2014

Vision and Aims

“At Brackenbury we nurture the desire and ability to learn so that all of our children have the confidence and skills to be happy and successful in an ever changing world. Our children learn understanding and respect for each other and the community we live in.”

Aims:

- To have happy children who enjoy coming to school.
- Provide a safe, secure and caring environment in which children can learn through making mistakes.
- Celebrate achievement in all areas
- Provide a place where all children, staff and the wider community feel welcome and are appreciated.
- Encourage self expression and creativity while promoting respect for each other.
- To identify all barriers to learning and do all we can to overcome them.

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OUR AIMS IN DEVELOPING A WRITTEN POLICY

The aim of the policy is to describe our commitment to teaching children with special educational needs, which is reflected in our whole school ethos. It is intended that this document will define the term 'special educational needs'. It will outline our aims and objectives in making SEN provision, and describe how the needs of individual pupils are identified, with reference to the Revised Code of Practice 2014. It will set out the organisation and management of the provision for children with special educational needs, and how we monitor the provision.

It will seek to inform and advise parents/carers, teachers, governors and inspectors on the school's SEN procedures and the implementation of the policy. It is intended to be used as a tool for the development of better practice and as a means of ensuring a fair distribution of resources for children with SENs

DEFINITION OF SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

According to the Code of Practice 2014, 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 or disability 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 or mainstream post-16 institutions

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.

Special educational provision is that which is additional to, or otherwise different from, the educational provision generally made for children of their age in schools maintained by the LA, other than special schools in the area.

OUR AIMS IN MAKING PROVISION FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Many children have particular needs during their school career; a weakness in one or more curriculum areas, or difficulties socially and emotionally. Where it is identified that a child's needs cannot be met in the usual context of the classroom setting and differentiated curriculum, some intervention or extra support may be required to meet those needs.

At Brackenbury we aim to identify these needs early and respond to them appropriately, using both school based and or external resources. We aim to ensure that the barriers to learning are removed to enable children to develop as individuals both cognitively and emotionally. As a community primary school, we have regard to the **Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice 0-25** when carrying out our duties towards all pupils with special educational needs. It is the responsibility of the governing body and the head teacher for making special educational provision for all pupils who, at any time during their attendance at Brackenbury, may have special educational needs.

OUR OBJECTIVES IN MAKING PROVISION FOR PUPILS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

To ensure that all pupils are able to develop intellectually, socially, emotionally, morally, creatively and physically;

To offer individuals appropriate support to help them progress;

To ensure that all children have access to the full National Curriculum;

To ensure that where special needs have been identified that early and appropriate intervention can take place which breaks down the barriers to learning, and allows for the development of skills;

To promote inclusion and equal opportunities;

To allow for the monitoring of the effectiveness of special programmes of learning for all children, including those with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP);

To maintain a consistent and effective system for identifying and responding to an individual's needs which allows for the swift exchange of information between pupil, parents, teachers and other professionals;

To ensure a fair distribution and effective use of the school's resources in collaboration with the governors;

To enable external agencies to assess and offer support or advice on the teaching of pupils with special needs;

To break down learning into manageable steps to ensure the progress of all children;

To ensure that achievable targets are set for children with special needs which provide 'stepping stones' to maintain an appropriate level of progress.

IDENTIFICATION, ASSESSMENT AND PROVISION

Provision for children with special educational needs is a matter for the school as a whole. In addition to the governing body, the head teacher, the SENCO 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.

At Brackenbury, at the heart of every class is a continuous cycle of planning, teaching and assessing which takes account of the wide range of abilities, aptitudes and interests of the children. The majority of children will learn and

progress within these arrangements. Those children whose overall attainment or attainments in specific subjects fall significantly outside the expected range may have special educational needs. There may be other children who have social or emotional needs that cannot be met through the usual context of the classroom. These children may also have special educational needs.

We use agreed policies for behaviour and assessment to provide criteria for this judgement, taking into account the comparative achievement of other children. The views of parents, teachers and non-teaching staff, the SENCo and the Head can also contribute to this judgment.

Provision

At Brackenbury we assess each child's current levels of attainment on entry to the Reception class, to ensure that they build upon the pattern of learning and experience already established during the child's pre-school years. We liaise closely with the Brackenbury Nursery, and aim to develop and maintain links with other nurseries where children may transfer from.

If the child already has an identified special educational need, this information will be transferred from the Early Years setting and the SENCo and class teacher will use this information to

- provide starting points for the development of an appropriate curriculum
- identify and focus attention on action to support the child within the class
- use the assessment process 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 in the child's learning
- involve parents in implementing a joint learning approach at home

The identification and assessment of children with special educational needs whose first language is not English, requires particular care. Where there is uncertainty about an individual child, teachers will look carefully at all aspects of a child's performance in different subjects to establish whether the problems they have are due to limitations regarding their command of the language, or arise from special educational needs. The opinion of the EAL teacher is also sought as to whether the child's rate of acquiring English is within the expected range. Parents' knowledge of their child will also be drawn upon.

In order to help children who have special educational needs, Brackenbury adopts a graduated response that recognises that there is a continuum of special educational needs, and brings increasing specialist expertise to bear on the difficulties that a child may be experiencing. We record the steps taken to meet the needs of individual children.

SEN CODE OF PRACTICE 2014

Brackenbury School uses the Graduated Response for identification, assessment and review of pupils with SEN in the school:

Assess

- Draw on teachers' assessments and experiences of the pupil to analyse needs
- Look at individual's development in comparison to their peers and national data
- Consider advice from external support services

Plan

- Agree adjustments, interventions and support to be put in place, as well as expected impact on progress, development or behaviour, along with a clear date for review
- Formally notify parents

Do

- Class teachers should 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 should support the class or subject teacher in the further assessment of the child's particular strengths and weaknesses, in problem solving and advising on the effective implementation of support.

Review

- The impact and quality of the support and interventions should be evaluated, along with the views of the pupil and their parents. This should feed back into the analysis of the pupil's needs. The class or subject teacher, working with the SENCO, should revise the support in light of the pupil's progress and development, deciding on any changes to the support and outcomes in consultation with the parent and pupil.
- The interventions put into place as part of this four part response are short-term and focus on removing or reducing obstacles to individual's learning. The current interventions provided at Brackenbury School are designed to support
 - Reading writing and maths
 - Phonics development
 - Language for thinking
 - Social skills

In certain cases where children are not making expected progress or whose attainment is significantly below what would be expected, an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) may be issued. A formal request for assessment

towards an EHCP would only be pursued after the Graduated Response had been implemented over time, without the anticipated outcomes.

The broad areas of need, which will be included on IEPs (Individual Education Plan) are:

- Communication and Interaction
- Cognition and Learning
- Social, Mental and Emotional Health
- Sensory and/or Physical needs

In-depth details of these broad areas of need can be found in section 6 of the Code of Practice 2014 (page 86).

For children who have a Statement of SEN, an IEP is written. Strategies employed to enable the child to make progress will be recorded within the IEP, which will include information about

- the short term targets set for the child (3-4 usually)
- the teaching strategies to be used
- the provision to be put in place
- when the plan is to be renewed
- outcomes (to be recorded when the IEP is reviewed)

The IEP will only record what is additional to, or different from, the differentiated curriculum. It will focus on three or four individual targets that match the child's needs, and have been discussed with the child and the parents. The IEP will be reviewed three times a year and parent's views on their child's progress will be sought at least once a year. Wherever possible, the child will also take part in the review process.

All statements and EHCPs are reviewed annually, with the parents, the pupil, the LA, the school and professionals involved, invited to consider whether any amendments need to be made to the description of the pupil's needs or to the special educational provision specified in the statement. The annual review will focus on the child's achievements as well as on any difficulties that need to be resolved. At the review in Year 5, clear recommendations will be given to the type of provision that the child will require at the secondary stage. It will then be possible for parents to visit secondary schools and consider the appropriate options within similar timescales to other parents.

Brackenbury School receives a notional SEN budget, based on a locally agreed formula, for supporting children within school. There is an upper limit to the notional funding per child and schools can apply for additional time limited funding if further input or additional provision is required. If long-term funding is needed to meet the needs of individuals it may be that the school requests

assessment for an EHCP plan. This request will be discussed in partnership with the parents and child.

PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

Parental involvement is an essential element in the achievement of all children in the school and is ensured through regular formal and informal meetings. Staff are accessible to listen to parents concerns, and parents are contacted sooner, rather than later, when difficulties are perceived.

When children have special educational needs, parental involvement becomes particularly important and is a legal requirement, reiterated in the LBHF Local Offer, highlighting "*Parents as equal partners in planning for their child.*"

The process for communicating concerns regarding SEN provision is the same as for other school activities: parents are encouraged to firstly approach the class teacher, followed by the SENCo, the Deputy or the Head. Parents are also able to approach the Governors or the LA directly.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of the governing body and the Headteacher for making the special educational provision for all pupils who, at any time during their attendance at Brackenbury, may have special educational needs, as enshrined in the 1993 Education Act.

The Role of the SENCo in mainstream primary schools

The SENCo has the responsibility for the day to day implementation of the SEN policy. The SENCo's responsibilities include:

- overseeing the day to day operation of the school's SEN policy
- coordinating the provision for children with SEN
- liaising and advising fellow teachers
- managing learning support assistants
- overseeing the records of all children with special needs
- liaising with parents of children with additional or special educational needs
- contributing to in-service training of staff
- liaising with external agencies including the LA's support and educational psychology services, health services and voluntary bodies

BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL'S SEN PROVISION

Admissions

As a community primary school, Brackenbury follows the LA guidelines on admissions. Pupils without a statement or EHCP will be admitted on the basis of our published admissions criteria. It is the responsibility of the LA to arrange for special provision to be met for those pupils with a statement or EHCP. The

ability of our school to make this provision will be addressed when the child's placement is considered.

SEN Specialism

At Brackenbury, we make excellent use of specialist teachers and outreach services within the Tri-Borough. Such specialists may work with an individual, a group, or occasionally whole class, as well as advise teachers on the use of strategies that promote effective learning.

The SENCo will be suitably qualified (e.g. National Award for SEN Coordination) and able to support teachers, LSAs and parents.

INCLUSION AND ACCESS TO THE CURRICULUM

Class teachers will largely cater for children with special educational needs through differentiated tasks and the setting of individual targets. This enables all children to access the curriculum even when they are operating at a different stage of development to the majority of their peers. Additional support will usually take place in the classroom. If appropriate, the pupil may be withdrawn for some intensive work with a small group of peers. At Brackenbury we make every effort to break down the barriers to learning to ensure that all pupils are integrated as fully as possible.

Children with Medical Needs

Where a child's medical needs interrupt their normal educational provision at Brackenbury, the school will aim to have the child's educational needs identified, and ensure that they receive support quickly and efficiently. Where the absence lasts up to 15 days or less, and is not part of a recurring medical condition, the school will liaise with parents of the child, and provide homework, as soon as the child becomes able to cope with it. Where the child's absence is expected to last for more than 15 days, and the child is at home and not in hospital, the school will make a referral to the LA, for home tuition. Where the child is hospitalized, there is a 'direct referral system' for pupils who receive education at hospitals in the area. Children's attendance is monitored by the Learning Mentor, who will alert the SENCo, as the named person, when a child is likely to be absent for more than a week.

Children with Disabilities

Amendments to the Children Act 1989 (in order to bring it into line with the Disability Discrimination Act 2005) states:

'A child is disabled if he/she has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day to day activities.'

Brackenbury School does not treat disabled pupils less favourably, for any reason which relates to their disability. We take reasonable steps to ensure that

disabled pupils are not placed at a substantial disadvantage compared to other pupils who are not disabled. We also plan strategically for the improvement of the physical environment for disabled students. The ground floor of our main school building is fully accessible to wheelchair users, and there is also a toilet that has wheel chair access. We aim to increase disabled students' participation in the curriculum and are improving ways in which written/spoken information, which is provided to pupils who are not disabled, is also provided to disabled pupils.

We can enlarge print for visually impaired students, and have access to the 'talking books' scheme, which allows individual children to borrow books and audio tapes.

Staff aim to use a multi sensory approach to their teaching which will help meet the differing learning styles of the pupils. In addition, they consider the grouping in the classroom, and make adjustments to the curriculum to include all pupils in the wide range of activities available at Brackenbury.

Liaison with other agencies

At Brackenbury we value the contributions of other professionals highly and endeavour to work with them as closely as possible. Services that we seek advice from include:

- ◆ LA services such as Educational Psychology, Behaviour Support, the Sensory Language and Impairment team and the Specialist Teaching team.
- ◆ Health professionals such as Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, the school nurse, doctor, Cheyne Child Development Centre, and Wolverton Gardens and the Mental Health Service.
- ◆ CENMAC (Centre for Micro-assisted Learning)
- ◆ Information from previous schools and Social Services.

Referral to these services is made via the school, parents, or the Health service.

When children with special educational needs transfer to other schools, every effort is made to liaise with the receiving school, ensuring a smooth transition and passing on of information and files, in accordance with the Code of Practice 0-25, 2014.

Monitoring the Provision

Regular meetings take place between the governor for SEN, the Headteacher, and the SENCo to ensure effective co-ordination of the provision. The SEN governor reports back to the full governing body at regular intervals, which enables effective communication to take place.

The SENCo monitors the class teachers' planning, and observes some lessons to ensure that appropriate provision is being made for children with SEN, which also matches their individual targets.

Individual Education Plans (IEPs) are reviewed by the class teachers and monitored by the SENCo once a term to assess whether pupils are progressing. The format for IEPs has been reviewed to assist teachers to make targets more specific, and then match the action on how those targets are to be achieved. Information on the SEN register is held on a database centrally, which enables swift access to current SEN information.

Through the process of informal discussion of SEN needs and provision, formal monitoring, discussion with the support service staff and long term review of the SEN policy that INSET needs are identified. These are provided on mainly an in-house basis or occasionally as a main focus on the School Development Plan.

Evaluation of the Provision

Evaluation of the provision for children with Special Educational Needs is carried out in several different ways:

- Regular meetings between the head teacher and the SENCo to discuss the scope and breadth of the provision.
- Annual meeting between the head teacher, Educational Psychologist (attached to Brackenbury), and SENCo, to plan how the EP will be involved in the provision for the coming year.
- Half-termly meetings with the EP, and the SENCo to monitor breadth and effectiveness of the provision, and decide on priorities for the forthcoming visit.
- Annual review of the SEN Policy by the governors.
- The SENCo participates in an Annual SEN Review, initiated by the LA, which aims at establishing, and maintaining standardisation of provision for children throughout the school
- Regular monitoring of the progress of children on the SEN Register, through end of year tests, reading and spelling tests, progress made against individual targets set, and informal observations.

Person Responsible: Inclusion Manager
October 2014

APPENDIX 1

SEN/AEN BUDGET AND STAFFING

Budget

The notional SEN budget provides funding for children within the school who may have additional or special educational needs. A prescribed local formula is used to fix the budget at the beginning of the school year and a contingency fund from the Higher Needs Block is available to 'top-up' provision if needs be.

The number of children with a Statement of Educational Need or EHCP will vary from year to year. Funding to support these children is provided by the LA.

Staffing

The Inclusion Manager has the responsibility for conducting Annual Reviews and advising staff on SEN issues, liaison with other professionals, and organising and monitoring the SEN Register.

All class teachers are central to the identification of Special Educational Needs, the planning, implementation and monitoring of the provision.