



Temple Sowerby CE Primary School

SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS POLICY

2025/2026

Approved by¹	
Name:	Full Governing Body
Position:	Hannah Cleasby, Chair
Signed:	
Date:	November 2025
Review date²:	November 2026



Living for learning; learning for life.

Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy

Our Ethos/ Vision

At Temple Sowerby Church of England Primary School we are committed to giving all our children every opportunity to achieve their best. The achievement, attitude and well-being of every child matters and inclusion is the responsibility of everyone within our school. Every teacher is a teacher of every pupil, including those with special educational needs and disabilities. We respect the unique contribution which every individual can make to our school community.

Definition of SEN and Disability (SEND)

At our school we use the definition for SEN and for disability from the SEND Code of Practice (January 2015, updated April 2020). This states:

SEN: A child or young person has special educational needs if he or she has a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her. A learning difficulty or disability is a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age. Special educational provision means educational or training provision that is additional to, or different from, that made generally for others of the same age in a mainstream setting in England.

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 has a long-term and substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.’

Key Roles and Responsibilities

The SENCO has day-to-day responsibility for the operation of SEND policy and coordination of specific provision made to support individual pupils with SEND, including those who have EHC plans. The SENCO is a member of the leadership team.

The SENCO is Joanne Winter. (joanne@temp-sow.cumbria.sch.uk.)

SEN Governor: The SEN governor is Mrs Hannah Cleasby, who is our Chair of Governors. She has responsibility for monitoring policy implementation and liaising between the SENCO and the Governing Body.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): The head teacher, Karl Laithwaite, has specific responsibility for safeguarding and is the DSL.

Aims and Objectives

Aims

At Temple Sowerby all pupils, regardless of their particular needs, are provided with inclusive teaching which will enable them to make the best possible progress and feel that they are a valued member of the wider school community. We expect that all pupils with SEND will meet or exceed the high expectations we set for them against national data and based on their age and starting points. We will use our best endeavours to give pupils with SEND the support they need, whilst having access to a broad and balanced curriculum. Working in partnership with families, it is our aim that pupils will become confident individuals able to make a successful transition on to the next phase of their education.

Objectives

To ensure a clear process for identifying, assessing, planning, providing and reviewing for SEND pupils with the pupils and their parents/carers.

To develop effective whole school provision management of support for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities.

To deliver training and support for all staff working with pupils with SEND in order to develop our practice within the guidance set out in the Code of Practice, January 2015.

Identification of Needs

The identification of SEN is embedded in the whole school process of monitoring the progress and development of all pupils. We recognise the benefits of early identification and making effective provision in improving the long-term outcomes for children with SEN. The purpose of identification is to work out what action the school needs to take, not to fit the pupil into a category. It is also important to identify the full range of needs, not simply the primary need of an individual pupil.

The Code of Practice refers to four broad areas of need:

Communication and interaction-these children have a difficulty in communicating with others. This may be because they have difficulty saying what they want to, understanding what is being said to them or they do not understand or use social rules of communication. For example, children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD), including Asperger syndrome, are likely to have particular difficulties with social interaction. They may also experience difficulties with language, communication and imagination, which can impact on how they relate to others.

Cognition and learning-children with learning difficulties learn at a slower pace than their peers, even with appropriate differentiation. Learning difficulties cover a wide range of needs from moderate learning difficulties (MLD) to children with profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD). Specific learning difficulties (SpLD), affect one or more specific aspects of learning, such as dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia.

Social, emotional and mental health difficulties-children may experience a wide range of social and emotional difficulties which manifest themselves in many ways. These may include becoming withdrawn or isolated, as well as displaying challenging, disruptive or disturbing behaviour. These behaviours may reflect underlying mental health difficulties such as anxiety or depression, self-harming, eating disorders or physical symptoms that are medically unexplained. Other children may have disorders such as attention deficit disorder (ADD), attention deficit hyperactive disorder (ADHD) or attachment disorder.

Sensory and/or physical needs-some children require special educational provision because they have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of the educational facilities generally provided. Many children with vision impairment (VI), hearing impairment (HI) or a multi-sensory impairment (MSI) will require specialist support and /or equipment to access their learning.

A Graduated Approach to SEN Support

How the school decides whether to make special educational provision

A process of on-going teacher assessments and pupil progress meetings identifies those pupils making less than expected progress given their age and individual circumstances. The school's first response is high quality targeted teaching by the class teacher. Where progress continues to be less than expected, the class teacher will discuss their concerns with the SENCO.

In deciding whether to make special educational provision, the teacher and SENCO will consider all of the information gathered from within the school about the pupil's progress, alongside the views of parents/carers and pupil. During this stage extra teaching or interventions may be put in place as a pupil's response to such support can help to identify their particular needs.

Where pupils have higher levels of need, and with parental permission, the school may seek advice from external agencies. These agencies include:

- Educational Psychology Service (EPS)
- Speech and Language Therapy Service
- Behaviour Support Service (BSS)
- Educational Welfare Team
- Children's Services
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)

If the support needed can be provided by adapting the school's core offer then a child might not be considered SEN or placed on the SEN register. If, however, the support required is different from or additional to what is ordinarily offered by the school, the child will be placed on the SEN register at SEN Support. The school will then seek to remove barriers to learning and put effective special educational provision in place. This begins a cycle of assess, plan, do, review with the child/young person at the centre of the process.

Where a child and family would benefit from co-ordinated support from more than one agency an Early Help Assessment may be used to identify help required and to prevent needs escalating.



The four part cycle:

Assess: We will ensure that we regularly assess all pupils' needs so that each child's progress and development is carefully tracked compared to their peers and national expectations. We will listen to the views and experience of parents/carers and the pupil. In some cases we will draw on assessments and guidance from other education professionals e.g. Educational Psychologists (EP) and from health and social services.

Plan: Where SEN Support is required the teacher and SENCO will put together a plan outlining the adjustments, interventions and support which will be put in place for the pupil as well as the expected impact on progress and outcomes, including a date when this will be reviewed. Targets for the pupil will be shared with her/him using child friendly language and with parents/carers. All staff who work with the pupil will be made aware of the plan.

Do: The class teacher is responsible for working with the pupil on a daily basis. She/he will also liaise closely with TAs or specialists who provide support set out in the plan and monitor the progress being made. The SENCO will provide support, guidance and advice for the teacher.

Review: The plan including the impact of the support and interventions will be reviewed each term or bi-annually by the teacher, SENCO, parent/carer and the pupil. This will inform the planning of next steps for a further period or where successful the removal of the pupil from SEN Support.

This four part cycle through which earlier decisions and actions are revisited, refined and revised with a growing understanding of the pupil's needs and what supports the pupil in making good progress is known as the graduated approach. It draws on more detailed approaches and more specialist expertise in successive cycles

Parents/carers and pupil involvement in the process

We believe in a person centred approach to information gathering and the cycle of assess, plan, do, and review. Termly reviews and target setting meetings are planned to coincide with parents' evenings where possible. Targets are shared with pupils and successes are celebrated. Parents of pupils with an EHC plan will be invited to attend annual reviews.

SEN Provision

SEN support can take many forms. This could include:

- an individual learning programme
- evidence based interventions
- extra help from a teacher or a learning support assistant
- making or changing materials, resources or equipment
- working with a child in a small group
- maintaining specialist equipment
- observing a child in class or at break and keeping records
- helping a child to take part in the class activities
- making sure that a child has understood things by encouraging them to ask questions and to try something they find difficult
- helping other children to work with a child, or play with them at break time
- supporting a child with physical or personal care difficulties, such as eating, getting around school safely, toileting or dressing

Managing the needs of Pupils on the SEN Register

Each pupil with SEND is an individual and their plan is tailored to meet their particular needs. Plans are reviewed termly or bi-annually with parents and pupils. Decisions regarding the level of support provided are needs led, working within the constraints of the school budget.

The class teacher is responsible for:

- the progress and development of all pupils including those with SEND
- ensuring the plan is implemented in the classroom
- regular liaison with parents and the SENCO
- effective deployment of additional adults
- Identifying on class planning the provision they are making for pupils with SEND
- Supporting the SENCO in the writing and reviewing of targets for pupils with SEND

Special Needs Assistants are responsible for:

- ensuring that day to day provision is in place for the pupils they support
- implementing agreed strategies and programmes, and advice from specialists.
- record keeping
- resources
- maintaining specialist equipment
- regular communication with class teacher and SENCO

The SENCO is responsible for:

- the SEND policy and its implementation
- co-ordinating support for children with SEND
- updating the SEN register and the provision planner
- monitoring the quality of provision and impact of interventions
- attending network meetings and updating staff
- referrals to and liaison with outside agencies
- line managing TAs with responsibility for SEND
- liaising with and advising staff
- maintaining regular liaison with parents/carers
- co-ordinating annual reviews
- supporting staff in identifying pupils with SEN.
- maintaining links and information sharing with receiving schools

Criteria for removing pupils from the SEN Register

When a child has made sufficient and sustained progress towards achieving their personal targets and it is felt that they are able to maintain this with quality first teaching, they may be removed from the SEN register. The school will continue to monitor pupils recently removed from the register to ensure good progress is maintained.

Requesting an Educational, Health and Care (EHC) needs assessment

A small number of pupils, whose needs are complex and long term, may require a greater level of support than that provided at SEN Support from the school's own resources. For these pupils a request will be made to the local authority to conduct an assessment of education, health and care needs. This may result in an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan being provided. This brings together the child's health and social care needs as well as their special educational needs.

Supporting parents/carers and children

We provide support in the following ways:

- the head teacher and SENCO operate an open-door policy for parents/carers seeking support and advice.
- the dedicated SEN Governor who is available as a contact point
- individual arrangements can be made for phased entry into Reception class
- additional time and special arrangements for SATs
- transition arrangements for vulnerable Y6 pupils transferring to secondary school
- inviting the SENCO of the receiving secondary school to the Annual Review in Year 5.

Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions

The school recognises that pupils with medical conditions should be properly supported so that they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education. Where it is the case that a medical condition meets the criteria of disability the school will comply with its duties under the

Equality Act 2010. Reasonable adjustments will always be made to promote access to all areas of the school curriculum for pupils with a disability, e.g. an extra adult to accompany a child on a school trips/residentials. The head teacher or the school administrator are responsible for the administration of medicines and health care plans/protocols.

Monitoring and evaluation of SEN

The head teacher regularly monitors and evaluates the quality of provision for all pupils. The school aims to use interventions in school that have proven outcomes and are evidence based. The impact of SEN provision on the progress and outcomes for children on the SEN register is measured through:

- analysis of pupil tracking data and test results
- progress against national data and based on their age and starting points.
- interventions baseline and exit data
- progress against individual targets
- pupils' work and pupil progress meetings

The head teacher maps provision for each class. Decisions are made as to whether specific interventions are proving to be effective in terms of impact, time spent on them and the finance used in providing them. Each year we review the needs of the cohort and if necessary make changes to our provision.

The SEN Governor is responsible for:

- monitoring the effective implementation of the SEND policy
- liaising termly with the SENCO
- reporting to the governing body on SEND
- ensuring that pupils with SEND participate fully in school activities

Training and development

Training needs are identified in response to the needs of pupils currently on the SEN register. School staff have specific training and expertise in speech and language, literacy and numeracy interventions and supporting children with dyslexia.

The SENCO attends network meetings in the 'Eden Cluster' to share good practice with colleagues and to keep up to date with SEND developments.

Storing and Managing Information

Pupil records and SEN information may be shared with staff working closely with SEN pupils to enable them to better meet the individual child's needs. We are grateful to parents for their information sharing and openness and respect their confidentiality.

Pupil SEN files are kept in a locked filing cabinet. Individual SEN files are transferred to receiving schools when pupils leave Temple Sowerby.

Reviewing the SEND Policy

The SEND policy is reviewed annually by the governing body.

Date of review: November 2026

Complaints

We urge parents/carers with any concerns regarding the SEN policy or the provision made for their child at Temple Sowerby CoE Primary School to speak to us as soon as possible. In the first instance, please speak to the class teacher or the SENCO. If parents/carers feel their child's needs are still not being met they should make an appointment to see the head teacher.

If concerns are still unresolved parents may wish to engage with the School complaints procedures.

Access to this policy

You can get a copy of our policy in a number of ways:

- The school website, follow the link: Our School to the Policies section.
- A hard copy on request at the school office

Please let us know if you need this policy to be made available to you in a different format e.g. enlarged font

Compliance

This policy complies with the statutory requirement laid out in the SEND Code of Practice 0–25 (January 2015). The guidance refers to Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014 and associated regulations. The regulations associated with the Children and Families Act 2014 are:

- The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014
- The Special Educational Needs (Personal Budgets) Regulations 2014
- The Special Educational Needs and Disability (Detained Persons) Regulations 2015
- The Children and Families Act 2014 (Transitional and Saving Provisions)(No 2) Order 2014

Appendix 1: Key Documentation

The following documents have informed this guidance which parents may find helpful:

Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0-25 years

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>

Special educational needs and disability: a guide for parents and carers

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-parents-and-carers>

Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions-3>

Keeping children safe in education <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education>

Cumbria's Local Offer

localoffer.cumbria.gov.uk/

Equality Act 2010

Guidance for parents and carers on supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing>

APPENDIX 2: Related School Policies/Documents

- Safeguarding Policy
- Accessibility Plan
- Admissions Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Complaints Procedure
- Inclusion Policy
- Equality Policy
- Curriculum policies