



Ditton Infant School

SEN&D Policy

First issued on 12th January 2018, revised to reflect staff changes on 17th September 2018

Compiled by Mrs Gillard (former SENCO), Dr James (SEND Governor) in collaboration with the Ditton Infant School teachers and Learning Assistants.

This policy is written in line with the requirements of:-

Children and Families Act 2014

SEN Code of Practice 2014

SI 2014 1530 Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014

Part 3 Duties on Schools – Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators

Schedule 1 regulation 51– Information to be included in the SEN information report

Schedule 2 regulation 53 – Information to be published by a local authority in its local offer

Equality Act 2010

Schools Admissions Code, DfE 1 Feb 2012

SI 2012 1124 The School Information (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012

SI 2013 758 The School Information (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following school policies

Accessibility Plan

Anti-bullying

Behaviour Policy

Disability Equality Policy

Equal Opportunities and Equality Statement

Gender Equality Policy

Managing Parental Complaints

Homework Policy

Race Equality Policy

Safeguarding Policy

Supporting Children with Medical Needs

Teaching and Learning Policy

This policy was developed with parent representatives including those whose children have special educational needs and representatives from the governing body and will be reviewed annually.

Definition of SEN

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

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

- (a) Has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age; or
- (b) 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. *SEN Code of Practice (2014, p 4)*

Definition of disability

Many children and young people who have SEN may also 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’. This definition provides a relatively low threshold and includes more children than many realise: ‘long-term’ is defined as ‘a year or more’ and ‘substantial’ is defined as ‘more than minor or trivial’ *SEN Code of Practice (2014, p5)*

1 The kinds of special educational need for which provision is made at the school

At Ditton Infant School we can make provision for every kind of frequently occurring special educational need without a statement of special educational needs / Education, Health and Care Plan. For instance dyslexia, dyspraxia, speech and language needs, autism, Asperger’s syndrome, learning and behaviour difficulties, ADHD, dyscalculia and sensory needs. There are other kinds of special educational need which do not occur as frequently and with which the school is less familiar, but we can access training and advice so that these kinds of needs can be met.

The school currently meets the needs of pupils with a statement of special educational need / Education, Health and Care plan. Decisions on the admission of pupils with a statement of special educational need / Education, Health and Care plan are made by the Local Authority.

The admission arrangements for pupils without a statement of special educational needs / Education, Health and Care Plan do not discriminate against or disadvantage disabled children or those with special educational needs.

2 Information about the policy for identification and assessment of pupils with SEN

At Ditton Infant School we monitor the progress of all pupils three times a year to review their academic progress. We also use a range of assessments with all the pupils at various points e.g York phonic test, Y1 phonics screening, Leuven scales of Wellbeing and Involvement, Burt reading assessment.

Where progress is not sufficient, even if a special educational need has not been identified, we put in place extra support to enable the pupil to catch up. Examples of extra support are additional small group and individual work using programmes such as Rising Stars Maths Intervention, Rapid Phonics and the Better Reading and Writing Partnership. We also use immediate interventions that are completed every day for writing and maths. This is supporting our children's progress by not allowing a gap between a child and their peers to become too big too rapidly and is linked to that day's learning.

Some pupils may continue to make inadequate progress, despite high-quality teaching targeted at their areas of weakness. For these pupils, and in consultation with parents, we will use a range of assessment tools to determine the cause of the learning difficulty. At Ditton Infant School we are experienced in using the following assessment tools: Speech Link, Language Link, COPS dyslexia screening, Boxall profile, sensory strength and difficulties assessment, TAPS Test of Auditory Processing Skills. We also have access to external advisors, through the local inclusion forum team process.

The purpose of this more detailed assessment is to understand what additional resources and different approaches are required to enable the pupil to make better progress. These will be shared with parents by the class teacher through a provision map overview (Appendix 1). They will also be put into a SEN support plan (ie: a class provision map or a personalised plan) and reviewed every term, and refined / revised if necessary. At this point we will have identified that the pupil has a special educational need because the school is making special educational provision for the pupil which is additional and different to what is normally available.

If the pupil can make good progress using these additional and different resources (but would not be able to maintain this good progress without it) we will continue to identify the pupil as having a special educational need. If the pupil is able to maintain good progress without the additional and different resources, he or she will not be identified with special educational need, this will be done by the class teacher and monitored by the Inclusion Manager. When any change in identification of SEN is changed parents will be notified by the Inclusion Manager. It is the class teacher's responsibility to inform all who work with the child of their targets and expected outcomes. If further advice is needed, this will be sought through the Inclusion Manager. NQTs will be supported by their mentor and the Inclusion Manager.

We will ensure that all teachers and support staff who work with the pupil are aware of the support to be provided and the teaching approaches to be used.

3 Information about the school's policies for making provision for pupils with special educational needs whether or not they have EHC Plans, including

3a How the school evaluates the effectiveness of its provision for such pupils

Each review of the SEN support plan will be informed by the views of the pupil, parents and class/subject teachers and the assessment information from teachers which will show whether adequate progress is being made.

The *SEN Code of Practice (2014, 6.17)* describes inadequate progress thus:

- Is significantly slower than that of their peers starting from the same baseline
- Fails to match or better the child's previous rate of progress
- Fails to close the attainment gap between rate of progress
- Widens the attainment gap

For pupils with or without a statement of special educational needs / Education, Health and Care Plan there will be three reviews (end of Term 2, 4 and 6) of the provision made for the child, which will enable an evaluation of the effectiveness of the special provision. The collation of all annual review evaluations of effectiveness will be reported to the governing body. A report will be presented by the Inclusion Manager at the full governing body meeting following the annual review.

3b the school's arrangements for assessing and reviewing the progress of pupils with special educational needs

Every pupil in the school has their progress tracked three times per year. In addition to this, pupils with special educational needs may have more frequent assessments of reading age, spelling age etc. These will be arranged by the class teacher. The assessments we use at Ditton Infant School are outlined in the list in section 2. Using these it will be possible to see if pupils are increasing their level of skills in key areas.

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

3c the school's approach to teaching pupils with special educational needs

High quality teaching, differentiated for individual pupils, is the first step in responding to pupils who have or may have SEN. Additional intervention and support cannot compensate for a lack of good quality teaching. Schools should regularly and carefully review the quality of teaching for all pupils, including those at risk of underachievement. This includes reviewing and, where necessary, improving, teachers' understanding of strategies to identify and support vulnerable pupils and their knowledge of the SEN most frequently encountered, *SEN Code of Practice (2014, 6.37)*

In Ditton Infant School the quality of teaching is judged to be good in our last Ofsted inspection.

We follow the Mainstream Core Standards -

http://www.kelsi.org.uk/pupil_support_and_wellbeing/targeted_support/inclusion/inclusion_and_achievement/publications_and_documents.aspx advice developed by Kent County Council to ensure that our teaching conforms to best practice.

In meeting the Mainstream Core Standards the school employs some additional teaching approaches, as advised by internal and external assessments e.g. one to one tutoring / precision teaching / mentoring, small group teaching, use of ICT software learning packages. These are delivered by additional staff employed through the funding provided to the school as 'notional SEN funding'

3d how the school adapts the curriculum and learning environment for pupils with special educational needs

At Ditton Infant School we follow the advice in the Mainstream Core Standards on how to adapt the curriculum and the learning environment for pupils with special educational needs. We also incorporate the advice provided as a result of assessments; both internal and external, and the strategies described in statements of special educational needs / Education, Health and Care Plans.

As part of our requirement to keep the appropriateness of our curriculum and learning environment under review the Governors ensure that improvements to the school are outlined in our school's accessibility plan. Recent improvements have included the development of our school website and the implementation of a Connected Curriculum.

3e additional support for learning that is available to pupils with special educational needs

As part of our budget we receive 'notional SEN funding'. This funding is used to ensure that the quality of teaching is good in the school and that there are sufficient resources to deploy additional and different teaching for pupils requiring SEN support. The amount of support required for each pupil to make good progress will be different in each case and a full list of the interventions we can offer is on the class provision map or personalised plans and will be shared with parents/carers. In very few cases a very high level of resource is required. The funding arrangements require schools to provide up to £6000 per year of resource for pupils with high needs, and above that amount the Local Authority should provide top up to the school (KCC's Schools Funding Forum is currently developing a system for this which will be implemented in April 2015)

3f how the school enables pupils with special educational needs to engage in all school activities (including physical activities) together with children who do not have special educational needs

All clubs, trips and activities offered to pupils at Ditton Infant School are available to all pupils with special educational needs either with or without a statement of special educational needs / Education, Health and Care Plan. Where necessary, the school will use the resources available to it to provide additional adult support to enable the safe participation of the pupil in the activity

3g support that is available for improving the emotional and social development of pupils with special educational needs

At Ditton Infant School we understand that an important feature of the school is to enable all pupils to develop emotional resilience and social skills, both through direct teaching for instance e.g. Growth Mindset, PSHE, circle time, use of SEAL materials, assemblies and also indirectly with conversations adults have with pupils throughout the day.

For some pupils with the most need for help in this area we also can provide the following e.g. positive play, drawing and talking therapy, time-out/calm space for pupil to use when upset or agitated.

Pupils in the early stages of emotional and social will be supported to enable them to develop and mature appropriately. This will usually require additional and different resources, beyond that required by pupils who do not need this support. For these children we have a Wellbeing Team led by Mrs Campbell. There are two designated learning assistants; Mrs Savoury and Mrs Coles who work with children who are highlighted by class teachers or parents as having involvement or wellbeing issues. With the most extreme cases, referrals to Early Help Provision will be made by the team.

4 The name and contact details of the SEN Co-ordinator

The Inclusion Manager at Ditton Infant School is Mrs Campbell, whose role includes the SENCO responsibilities. She is a qualified teacher, has a Post Graduate Certificate in Special Educational Needs Co-ordination and a Post Graduate Diploma in Teaching and Assessing Learners with Specific Learning Difficulties.

Mrs Campbell is available on 01732 844107.

5 Information about the expertise and training of staff in relation to children and young people with special educational needs and how specialist expertise will be secured

Teachers and teaching assistants have had the following awareness training ADHD, dyslexia, sensory circuits, Lego therapy, wellbeing and involvement, speech and language, sensory needs. Learning assistants that support children with additional needs also attend LIFT meetings to discuss the support needed. This supports them in becoming more skilled in identifying strategies for an inclusive learning environment.

Where a training need is identified beyond this we will find a provider who is able to deliver it. Training providers we can approach are Ridgeview Special School, Educational Psychologist, Speech and language therapist, hearing impaired teacher, occupational therapists, physio therapist, dyslexia specialists, other schools etc. The cost of training is covered by the notional SEN funding.

6 Information about how equipment and facilities to support children and young people with special educational needs will be secured

Where external advisors recommend the use of equipment or facilities which the school does not have, we will purchase it using the notional SEN funding, or seek it by loan. For highly specialist communication equipment the school will seek the advice of the KCC Communication and Assistive Technology team.

7 The arrangements for consulting parents of children with special educational needs about, and involving them in, their education

All parents of pupils at Ditton Infant School are invited to discuss the progress of their children twice a year and receive a written report once a year. In addition we are happy to arrange meetings outside these times. As part of our normal teaching arrangements, all pupils will access some additional teaching to help them catch-up if the progress monitoring indicates that this is necessary; this will not imply that the pupil has a special educational need. All such provision will be recorded, tracked and evaluated on a Provision Map which will be shared with parents three times per year by the class teacher using a provision map overview.

If following this normal provision improvements in progress are not seen, we will contact parents to discuss the use of internal or external assessments which will help us to address these needs better. From this point onwards the pupil will be identified as having special educational needs because special educational provision is being made and the parent will be invited to all planning and reviews of this provision. Parents will be actively supported to contribute to assessment, planning and review.

In addition to this, parents of pupils with a statement of SEN / Education, Health and Care Plan will be invited to contribute to and attend an annual review, which, wherever possible will also include other agencies involved with the pupil. Information will be made readily accessible for parents via the Inclusion Manager.

8 The arrangements for consulting young people with special educational needs about, and involving them in, their education

When a pupil has been identified to have special educational needs because special educational provision is being made for him or her, the pupil will be consulted about and involved in the arrangements made for them as part of child-centred planning, as appropriate to the stage of development of the child. This will be led by the class teacher. Parents are likely to play a more significant role in the childhood years with the young person taking more responsibility and acting with greater independence in later years.

9 The arrangements made by the governing body relating to the treatment of complaints from parents of pupils with special educational needs concerning the provision made at the school

The normal arrangements for the treatment of complaints at Ditton Infant School are used for complaints about provision made for special educational needs. We encourage parents to discuss their concerns with the Inclusion Manager and/ or Head Teacher in the first instance to resolve the issue before making the complaint formal to the Chair of the governing body.

If the complaint is not resolved after it has been considered by the governing body, then a disagreement resolution service or mediation service can be contracted. If it remains unresolved after this, the complainant can appeal to the First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability), if the case refers to disability discrimination, or to the Secretary of State for all other cases.

There are some circumstances, usually for children who have a Statement of SEN where there is a statutory right for parents to appeal against a decision of the Local Authority. Complaints which fall within this category cannot be investigated by the school.

10 How the governing body involves other bodies, including health and social services bodies, local authority support services and voluntary organisations, in meeting the needs of pupils with special educational needs and in supporting the families of such pupils

The governing body have engaged with the following bodies:-

- Free membership of LIFT for access to specialist teaching and learning service
- Access to local authority's service level agreement with Speech and Language Therapy Services / Occupational Therapy Services / Physiotherapy Services for pupil with requirement for direct therapy or advice/Teacher of the Deaf
- Ability to make ad hoc requests for advice from Communication and Assistive Technology Team, etc

11 The contact details of support services for the parents of pupils with special educational needs, including those for arrangements made in accordance with clause 32 (Parent Partnership Services)

Kent Parent Partnership Service (KPPS) provides free, impartial, confidential, advice, support and options around educational issues for parents who have children with special educational needs or disabilities (0-19). They empower parents to play an active and informed role in their child's education. They can be contacted on

HELPLINE: 03000 41 3000

Office: 0300 333 6474 and

Minicom: 0300 333 6484

E-mail: kentparentpartnershipservice@kent.gov.uk

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/kpps>

12 The school's arrangements for supporting pupils with special educational needs in transferring between phases of education or in preparing for adulthood and independent living

At Ditton Infant School we work closely with the educational settings used by the pupils before they transfer to us to seek the information that will make the transfer as seamless as possible. For example, visits will be arranged with our feeder pre-school settings, with teachers/ practitioners and SENCOs, as appropriate, will meet to discuss any needs and ensure provision that has been put in place to ensure a smooth transition.

We also contribute information to a pupils' onward destination by providing information to the next setting. For example, visits will be arranged with the next settings, with teachers and SENCOs, as appropriate, will meet to discuss any needs and ensure provision that has been put in place to ensure a smooth transition.

13 Information on where the local authority's local offer is published.

The local authority's local offer is published on http://www.kelsi.org.uk/pupil_support_and_wellbeing/targeted_support/sen_and_disabilities/local_offer.aspx and parents without internet access should make an appointment with the Inclusion Manager for support in gaining the information they require.

Approved by the GB on

Next review on ... January 2019