



Information Report for Special Educational Needs

March 2026

Miss K Gamblin: SENCo

St Mary's School Offer

Information regarding St Mary's Primary School's current Special Educational Needs and Disability provision

What is the School Offer?

The school or local offer has been created to ensure that all parents and carers are able to find out about all the services, opportunities and access for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities in their school. This means if your child needs to receive extra help with any aspect of their learning, you can find out what the school is able to offer through the website or you can ask for a copy at the school office.

What are Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) classed as?

The Children and Families Act 2014 defines when a child or young person has special educational needs (SEN). This is when they have either a learning difficulty or a disability and they need special educational provision (SEP) to be made for them.

Who do I speak to if I think my child needs extra support or I think they have a special educational need?

If you think your child needs extra support or has a special educational need, you can contact our school's Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator Mrs Ternan. Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (SENCO) are responsible for the management of provision and support for identified pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. All teachers are expected to provide **quality first teaching** for all pupils including those with individual needs and SENCOs can help teachers and other staff members to ensure that there is appropriate and focussed support for the children in their class. ***Each teacher is a teacher of SEND.***

What type of Special Educational Need might my child have?

There are **four** main areas that cover Special Educational Needs. These are outlined in the 'SEND Code of Practice' (2014). These areas and their meanings are as follows:

Area of Special Educational Need	Difficulties displayed
<p>1. Communication and Interaction</p>	<p>Children may have a delay or disorder in one or more of the following areas:</p> <p><u>Attention/Interaction Skills:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May have difficulties ignoring distractions and need reminders from adults to stay focused • May need prompting to stay focused on tasks and may need personalised motivations (target cards, reward charts, etc) in order to complete activities • May have challenges in attending whole class sessions and interactions with children and adults might not always be appropriate especially with peers • May not be able to start or maintain a conversation <p><u>Understanding language (also called Receptive Language)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Might require visual support to understand or process spoken language • May need augmented communication systems such as British Sign Language -BSL, Picture Exchange Communication System – PECS and Makaton • Frequent misunderstandings and therefore as a result, repetition of language and some basic language needs to be used to help their understanding <p><u>Spoken language (also called Expressive Language)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Might use simple language and limited vocabulary. Ideas and conversations may be difficult to follow and might mean that the adult asks for further explanation • Some immaturities in speech sound system • Grammar and phonological awareness still fairly poor which can then create difficulties in literacy <p><u>Children who may have Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) would be classified under this area of need.</u></p>
<p>2. Cognition and Learning</p>	<p>May have difficulties with the skills needed for effective learning such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language, memory and reasoning skills • Sequencing and organisational skills • Understanding number • Problem solving and concept development skills • Fine and gross motor skills • Independent learning skills • Exercising choice • Decision making • Information processing <p><u>Children may have a specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia, dyscalculia, dyspraxia or dysgraphia</u></p>

<p>3. Social, Mental and Emotional Health</p>	<p>Might have difficulties with social and emotional development which may lead to or stem from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social isolation • Behaviour difficulties • Attention difficulties (ADHD) • Anxiety and depression • Attachment disorders • Low self esteem • Issue with self-image
<p>4. Sensory and/or Physical</p>	<p>These pupils may have a medical or genetic condition that could lead to difficulties with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific medical conditions • Gross/fine motor skills • Visual/hearing impairment • Accessing the curriculum without adaptation • Physically accessing the building or equipment • Over sensitivity to noise/smells/light/touch/taste • Toileting and self-care

What does intervention look like at St Mary’s Catholic Primary School?

The school provides a graduated response to each child dependent on the level of need. These are often referred to as ‘waves of intervention.’

Waves of Intervention Model



St Mary’s School provides support to children at all wave levels of intervention across the four areas of special educational need of communication and interaction, cognition and learning, social, mental and emotional health and sensory and/or physical. Please see the table below to view what we strive to achieve as a school.

Social, Mental and Emotional Health

Wave 1 – Whole School Approach (First Quality Teaching)	Wave 2 – Targeted Support (for individuals or small groups)	Wave 3 – Specialised intervention for those with additional needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent/whole school classroom/behaviour management (<i>Above and beyond/Turn it around</i>) across school to ensure high expectations • Restorative approach given by staff to manage conflict • In-house Higher-Level Teaching Assistants (HLTAs)/teacher covering classes meaning very little supply cover needed • Weekly Celebration assemblies that recognise children living out of core values Joy, Pride and Community. • Positive peer experiences; Trips, residential trips, Museum of children’s work etc • Class PSHE lessons • School Council – encouraging pupil voice • Staff led clubs throughout the school year • Growth Mindset strategies used to encourage resilience and motivation • EARA (Equalities and Right Advocates) group lead the school in areas of equality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent meetings with teacher and SENCo • Emotional Literacy Support Sessions – ELSA group social skills sessions • Positive daily attendance monitored • ‘Socially Speaking’ for pupils who feel isolated, when needed • Lego therapy sessions • School Nurse service to cover a variety of additional needs from toileting to loss and bereavement. • Personalised, inclusive assessment tasks (extra time for identified children/regular rest periods) • Resilience sessions for targeted children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1:1 ELSA weekly sessions • Advice from Educational Psychology Service around individual need • Individual behaviour plans – personalised reward time for successes • Individual support and referral to school nursing service (medical concerns/non-attendance/family circumstances) • Support/reports to assist referrals to CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services through Single Point of Access - SPA) • Completion of Early Help Assessment (EHA) to identify any needs or agency involvement to meet the welfare needs of a child or family • Application for Education, Health Care Plan (EHCP) if needed • 1:1 support if recommended • Individual Behaviour Plans (IBPs) identifying proactive and reactive strategies to support individual children • Reduced Timetables where appropriate • Safe spaces available for identified children.

Communication and Interaction

Wave 1 – Whole School Approach (First Quality Teaching)	Wave 2 – Targeted Support (for individuals or small groups)	Wave 3 – Specialised intervention for those with additional needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching strategies with adapt to a variety of learning styles • ‘Hooks’ which interest the children at the beginning of a new topic – usually kinaesthetic or visual in nature • Topic vocabulary shared with all at the start of topic to ensure children understand subject specific words • Clear, verbal instructions given across all classes • Visual class timetables in each classroom across the school • School trips relating to year group topics to put subject matter into real life contexts • Debates, drama and role-play • Stem sentences to aid positive communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ELSA social skills • Socially Speaking for pupils who feel isolated, when required • Individual workstations for identified pupils • 25% extra time for identified pupils during assessment tasks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ELSA 1:1 sessions • Referral to Speech and Language Therapist (SALT) and 1:1 follow-up work from recommendations given • Application for Education, Health Care Plan if needed • 1:1 Speech and Language Sessions • 1:1 support if recommended • Referral to Educational Psychologist (EP) and 1:1 follow-up work from recommendations given • Personalised social stories for individual concerns/issues for pupils with Autism • Transition books for pupils when changing year groups • TA acting as scribe for identified pupils when completing extended tasks or assessments • Individual communication books for identified pupils and their parents • Individual checklists to aid organisational skills • Socially Speaking Programme • Use of Now/Next cards • Makaton communication • PECs and scheduling where needed • Widget to support learning

Cognition and Learning

Wave 1 – Whole School Approach (First Quality Teaching)	Wave 2 – Targeted Support (for individuals or small groups)	Wave 3 – Specialised intervention for those with additional needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned teaching strategies to meet varied learning styles • Clear assessment at the start of each new English genre and Maths unit to assess individual pupils' starting points (Assessment for Learning – AfL) • Clear lesson structure using 'St Mary's Lesson' • Guided/focus groups led by teachers and teaching assistants as well as opportunities for Independent work • Clear Learning Objectives (LO) and feedback marking given to pupils • Taught editing skills to review own learning and that of peers • Practical maths investigations encouraging the pupils to problem solve and use trial and error strategies • Science – children leading their own areas of investigations • Work scrutinies during staff and leadership meetings to ensure consistency and high standards within all year groups • Cutaway techniques for different ability groupings to maximise learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differentiated tasks within the classroom including Maths, English, Spelling, Guided Reading as well as Topic work, Science and IT. • Additional handwriting groups • Additional phonics groups • Booster groups • Story starters to help pupils begin their writing • Use of mind maps to organise thoughts • Word banks – differentiated at appropriate level • Pre-Teach offered to children to effectively look at basic skills before lessons • Pupil conferencing to address misconceptions in learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Precision Teaching for Reading • Individual Learning Plan (ILP) • Referral for individual pupil support from PBS Outreach • Referral to Educational Psychologist (EP) and 1:1 follow-up work from recommendations given • Personalised curriculum where appropriate • Hand gym • 1:1 targeted reading • Referral to Educational Psychologist Service and 1:1 follow-up work from recommendations given • Application for Education, Health Care Plan if needed • 1:1 support if recommended • Individual checklists to aid organisational skills • Widget to support learning •

Sensory and /or Physical

Wave 1 – Whole School Approach (First Quality Teaching)	Wave 2 – Targeted Support (for individuals or small groups)	Wave 3 – Specialised intervention for those with additional needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective classroom management to ensure all pupils are the right place physically and mentally, to learn • Pupils have access to all necessary equipment and resources to learn • Use of working walls and aids in classroom to ensure children can access all aspects of their learning • Adequate space for pupils in high traffic areas (shared areas/playground/hall) • Regular reminders about staying safe including simple rules (walking on the left-hand side of the stairs) • Appropriate first aid training for all members of staff (Epi- pen, Asthma, etc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observation by SENCo to ensure provision for pupils is appropriate • Handwriting/ Hand Gym groups • Groupings and support for pupils needing less auditory stimuli and calm spaces to concentrate where appropriate (dependent on school space) • Appropriate training from specialist agencies regarding individual needs and support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referral to and regular reviews with Occupational Therapy (OT), Physiotherapy (PT), Hearing Impairment (HI) and Visual Impairment (VI)including 1:1 follow-up work from recommendations given • Support for individuals with School Nursing Service • Access to other specialist provisions when required • Writing slopes, pencil grips, move n' sit cushions, wedges and specialist chairs provided where appropriate • Individual review and support for identified pupils walking long distances on trips, PE sessions and playground facilities • 1:1 support where necessary • Individual TA support of pupils working in quieter areas to reduce anxieties around everyday classroom noise levels, where appropriate • Use of sensory/movement breaks

Current Outside Agency Involvement

Select and click (where appropriate) on the website images below to be redirected to the different outside agencies for further information.



Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS)

CAMHS has a variety of health professionals who can support children who have difficulties with their emotions and mental health. They can also work with families and carers. Referrals can generally be made through your own family doctor although school can and have, written appropriate supporting evidence to assist this referral.

<http://www.solentcamhs.nhs.uk>



Educational Psychology Service (EP)

St Mary's Catholic Primary School use Hampshire and Isle of Wight Educational Psychology Service and pupils can be referred by the school SENCo with agreement from parents/carers. The EP service work with school staff and parents by assessing and observing individual pupils in order to recommend the best way forward to support the child needs.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/educationalpsychology>



School Nursing Service

Children with specific medical needs which may affect learning and attendance at school are currently supported by our school. They help and support staff to write appropriate medical/health plans for children depending on their individual need.



Primary Behaviour Support (PBS)

The PBS team provide outreach support from The Lennox Centre to help schools develop children's social and emotional skills.



Children's Therapy Service Team

The Children's Therapy Service Team works closely together to support children and young people who need specialist help from one or more of our therapy services. These include Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech and Language Therapy. School can make referrals directly to this service to support individual pupils with parent/carer agreement.

www.solent.nhs.uk/service-info.asp?id=71&utype=

Speech and Language Therapy



Occupational Therapy



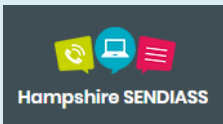
Physiotherapy



Parent Partnership

Hampshire SENDIASS offers parents and carers free, confidential and impartial information and advice about their child's Special Educational Needs (SEN). They can also support parents in accessing information regarding Statutory Assessment.

www.hampshiresendiass.co.uk



Visual and Hearing Impairment Services

Specialist Teacher Advisors offer advice, support and sometimes direct teaching for those pupils who have hearing or visual difficulties. They will work closely with schools and give training where required in order to ensure pupils have the appropriate resources and support needed to enable full access to learning.



Commonly Asked Questions

How does St Mary's Catholic Primary know if children need extra help?

Children may be identified as having SEN through a variety of ways including the following: -

- Child performing below age expected levels or against starting points and national age-related expectations
- Concerns raised by a parent
- Through half-termly Pupil Progress Meetings held between the teachers and Senior Leadership Team (SLT)
- Concerns raised by teacher for example behaviour or self-esteem is affecting performance
- Liaison with external agencies
- Health diagnosis through paediatrician/doctor

As a school we measure children's progress in learning against their individual starting points and age-related expectations. The class teacher continually assesses each child and notes areas where they are improving and where further support is needed. As a school, we track children's progress from entry in Reception through to Year 6, using a variety of different methods.

Children who are not making expected progress are picked up through our half-termly Pupil Progress Review meetings with the class teachers and Senior Leadership Team. In this meeting a discussion takes place concerning why individual children are experiencing difficulty and what further support can be given to aid their progression.

What should I do if I think my child may have special educational needs?

Talk to us – firstly contact your child's class teacher. If you require more information contact our SENCo Miss Gamblin. We pride ourselves on building positive relationships with parents. We are open and honest with parents and hope that they are able to do the same with us.

How will St Mary's Catholic Primary School staff support my child?

Miss Gamblin will closely monitor all provision and progress of any child requiring additional support across the school. The class teacher will oversee, plan and work with each child with SEND in their class to ensure that progress in every area is made. There may be a Teaching Assistant (TA) working with your child either individually or as part of a group, if this is seen as necessary by the class teacher. The regularity of these sessions will be explained to parents when the support starts.

How will the curriculum be matched to my child's needs?

All work within class is pitched at an appropriate level so that all children are able to access according to their specific needs. Typically, this might mean that in a lesson there would be three different levels of work set for the class, however on occasions this can be individually differentiated. The benefit of this type of differentiation is that all children can access a lesson and learn at their level.

How do we know if the support or strategies used have had an impact?

Regular progress meetings will monitor and track whether a child is making progress against age-related expectations and will also review whether we are 'narrowing the gap' (catching up to their peers or expected levels). Intervention programmes will also be tracked to ensure they are effective for groups of pupils/ individuals and adapted where necessary.

We also use ILPs (Individual Learning Plans) to set targets and review progress. We can use these targets to monitor pupils progress academically against national/age expected levels and update or adjust the ILP. This may involve updating into smaller steps or using a different approach to ensure progress is made.

Children may move off of the SEN register when they have 'caught up' or made sufficient progress.

How will I know how my child is doing and how will you help me to support my child's learning?

The class teacher will meet with parents at least twice a year (Parents Evenings) to discuss your child's needs, support and progress. For further information Miss Gamblin is available to discuss support in more detail. You are welcome any time to make an appointment to meet with either the class teacher or Miss Gamblin and discuss how your child is getting on. We can offer advice and practical ways that you can help your child at home.

We believe that your child's education should be a partnership between parents and teachers, therefore we aim to keep communication channels open and communicate regularly, especially if your child has complex needs.

If your child has complex SEND, they may have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) which means that a formal meeting (Annual Review) will take place to discuss your child's progress and a report will be written. This can also be done at a six-monthly interim review if changes to circumstances occur or concerns arise.

How will my child be able to contribute their views?

We value and celebrate each child being able to express their views on all aspects of school life.

This is usually carried out through the School Council which has an open forum for any issues or viewpoints to be raised. If your child has an EHC Plan, then their views will be obtained before any meetings.

What support will there be for my child's overall well-being?

We are an inclusive school, we welcome and celebrate diversity. All staff believe that having high self-esteem is vitally important to a child's well-being. The class teacher has overall responsibility for the pastoral, medical and social care of every child in their class, therefore this would be the parents' first point of contact. If further support is required the class teacher can liaise with the SENCo for further advice and support. This may involve working alongside outside agencies such as Health and Social Services, and/or the Behaviour Support Team.

The school also has an ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) who works under the direction of the SENCo, with vulnerable children during the school day.

Parents need to contact the school office if medication or action is required to ensure a child's good health which may include medicine for long term conditions (asthma or diabetes) or a 'Care Plan' for life threatening conditions written under the direction of the School Nurse. School will generally not take responsibility for other medicines such as cough medicines, however we may be able to administer prescribed medicines following discussions with parents.

What specialist services and expertise are available at or accessed by St Mary's Catholic Primary School?

As a school we work closely with any external agencies that we feel are relevant to individual children's needs within our school including: PBS (Primary Behaviour Support), Health including: School Nurse, General Practitioners, CAMHS (Child and Adult Mental Health), Paediatricians, OT (Occupational Therapist), Mental Health Support Team (MHST) and the Speech & Language Therapy service. We also work very closely with Social Care and the Education Psychologists. Should your child require any form of involvement with an outside agency then the school would immediately inform you and obtain permission from parents to pursue any kind of professional intervention.

What training have staff had or going to have?

As a staff we have regular training and updates of SEND conditions, medication use and interventions available for our pupils in order to ensure all staff are able to manage pupils accordingly. We also have two fully trained ELSAs (Emotional Literacy Support Assistants) who receive regular support from the Educational Psychologist.

How is the decision made about what type and how much support my child will receive?

The class teacher alongside the SENCo will discuss the child's needs and what support would be appropriate. Different children will require different levels of support in order to bridge the gap to achieve age expected levels. This will be through on-going discussions with parents.

What are the Governors responsibilities?

One Governor is responsible for SEND and Inclusion who regularly meets with the SENCo and will update on changes, needs in school, current concerns and budget. The Governors are then also able to agree priorities for spending within the SEN budget with the overall aim that all children receive the support they need in order to make progress.

How will my child be included in activities outside the classroom including school trips?

All children are included in all parts of the school curriculum and we aim for all children to be included on school trips. We will provide the necessary support to ensure that this is successful. A risk assessment is carried out prior to any off site activity to ensure everyone's health & safety will not be compromised. In the unlikely event that it is considered unsafe for a child to take part in an activity, then alternative activities which will cover the same curriculum areas will be provided in school.

How accessible is the school environment?

All classes are situated on one floor and is wheelchair accessible with disabled toilets. Any other resources needed for access may be assessed by OT and Physiotherapy in order for us to ensure ease of access and safety for all.

How will St Mary's Catholic Primary school prepare and support my child to join the school and then transfer to secondary school?

We encourage all new children to visit the school prior to starting when they will be shown around the school and any concerns can be addressed. For children with SEND we would encourage further visits to assist with the acclimatisation of the new surroundings. We may need to write a 'Social Story' to ease the transition for pupils with high anxiety and communication difficulties.

We liaise closely with staff when receiving and transferring children to different schools ensuring all relevant paperwork is passed on and all needs are discussed and understood. If your child has complex needs then an Education Health Care Plan review may be used as a transition meeting and staff from both schools will be invited to attend.

How are resources allocated and matched to children's special educational needs?

We ensure that all children who have Special Educational needs are met to the best of the school's ability with the funds available. We will often allocate Teaching Assistants who are funded by the SEN budget to deliver programmes designed to meet groups of children's needs. The budget is allocated on a needs basis.

What support is there for improving behaviour, attendance and avoiding exclusion?

As a school we have a very positive approach to all types of behaviour with a clear behaviour policy that is followed by all staff and pupils. If a child has behavioural difficulties, a Behaviour Support Plan will be written alongside the child and parents and possible PBS to identify the specific issues, put relevant support in place and set targets. After any behaviour incident we expect the child to reflect on their behaviour with an adult. This helps to identify why the incident happened and what the child needs to do differently next time to change and improve their behaviour. Attendance of every child is monitored on a daily basis by the Attendance Officer. Lateness and absence are recorded and reported upon to the Head teacher. Good attendance is actively encouraged throughout the school and rewarded.

Who can I contact for further information?

Your main point of contact would always be the class teacher and then following this you may need to speak to the SENCo (Miss Gamblin).

What should you do if you feel that the Local Offer is not being delivered or is not meeting your child's needs?

First point of contact would be your child's class teacher to share your concerns. You could also arrange to meet Miss Gamblin (SENCo) and Mrs Ternan, our Head teacher.

Who should I contact if I am considering whether my child should join St Mary's Catholic Primary School?

In this instance you can contact the school Admin office to arrange a meeting with either the Head Teacher, Mrs Ternan or our SENCO Miss Gamblin to discuss how the school could meet your child's needs.

How is the local offer reviewed?

This local offer will be reviewed annually to reflect the changing needs of the children who join and are developing in our school. We welcome and appreciate the views of parents and encourage new ideas if there is anything parents feel should be included.

