



SEND Policy September 2024

This policy reflects the priorities for The Federation of St Joseph's Catholic Junior, Infant and Nursery Schools, providing an authentic account of the approaches and practices in place to deliver high quality SEND provision. The document has been reviewed using the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Special Education Needs Disability (SEND) Code of Practice 2014 (updated 30/4/2020.) The document complements the SEND school information found on the school website.

This SEND policy is a key document to support the finest inclusive practice in our school.

It outlines our statutory responsibilities and approaches to ensure that all pupils, including those with SEND, can achieve their potential learning outcomes and engage successfully in all aspects of the wider school community.

This policy was developed by the school SENDCO Mrs Langford-Jackson with input from the previous school SENDCO Mrs K. Flegg , former school Head Teacher Mrs Fernandes and our former SEND school Governor who is Mrs M Bailey. It has been edited by the current SENDCO Malechi Abubaka. The principles in this document have been shared with staff, and ongoing staff involvement will embed the principles.

It complies with the statutory requirements and guidance set out in relevant legislation and documents.

The policy is available on our website.

Our Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENDCO) takes overall responsibility for the operation of this policy and coordination of specific provision for pupils receiving SEND support. Our SENDCO also contributes to the strategic development of SEND provision. Our SENDCO is Mr Malechi Abubaka and he can be contacted via SENDCO@st-josephs-jun.croydon.sch.uk or through the school office.

This policy will be reviewed no later than September 2024.

Section 1: Our Values and Vision in Relation to SEND Provision

At the Federation of St Joseph's Catholic Junior, Infant and Nursery Schools our principles are reflected in this policy. They are built on the three principles identified in chapter one of the SEND guidance 2014 (updated April 2020). We tailor our support to include:

- The views, wishes and feelings of the child or young person and the child's parents.
- The importance of the child or young person and the child's parents participating as fully as possible in decisions, and being provided with the information and support necessary to enable participation in those decisions.
- The need to support the child or young person and the child's parents in order to facilitate the development of the child or young person and to help them achieve the best possible educational and wider outcomes, preparing them effectively for adulthood.

Aims of this policy

The aims of this policy are to:

- Ensure that responsibility for provision for pupils with SEND remains an integral part of the whole school provision.
- Ensure that children and young people with SEND can engage successfully in all school activities alongside pupils who do not have SEND; this includes making reasonable adjustments for those pupils with a disability so that they have good access to the curriculum and wider school learning environment.
- Work in close partnership with parents, Croydon Local Authority and other key agencies so that the needs and strengths of each pupil with SEND are fully

understood, and there is a collaborative and coordinated approach to planning and reviewing any provision.

- Ensure a high level of staff expertise to meet pupils' needs through universal and targeted training/continued profession development.
- Promote independence and resilience in pupils with SEND so that they are well prepared for transition to secondary school and then adulthood.

Section 2: Admission Arrangements for Pupils with Send

The school's admission arrangements are set out in the school prospectus and make it clear that the school will not discriminate or disadvantage pupils with SEND.

The SEND Code of Practice requires a school to admit all pupils who have a Statement of Special Educational Need, or an Education Health and Care Plan, where it has been requested by parents as their preferred school and named by the Local Authority (LA).

The LA must comply with this request and name the school in the Statement/EHC plan unless:

- It would be unsuitable for the age, ability, aptitude or SEND of the child
- Or
- The attendance or the inclusion of the child would be incompatible with the efficient education of others at the school or the efficient use of resources.

The LA will work closely with the school so that any decisions on placement for a pupil with a Statement or an EHC Plan reflect the individual circumstances of each child and our school. This will include giving guidance on making any reasonable adjustments and signposting to training and guidance available, including support from the Croydon Special schools.

The SENDCO, in collaboration with parents and other key agencies, will ensure appropriate provision is in place to support pupils with SEND entering the school (See Section 6: Transition).

Section 3: Identifying Special Educational Needs

Our school uses the definition of SEND as set out in the SEND Code of Practice and Equality Act 2010 (Appendix 2).

We recognise the importance of early identification and aim to ensure that robust measures are in place to highlight children who are falling behind or who are facing difficulties with any aspect of learning or social development at the earliest opportunity.

This process of early identification is supported by:

- A review of skills and attainment when pupils join the school, taking into account information from any previous settings or agencies as appropriate.
- Ongoing tracking of all pupils to monitor rates of progress and attainment with a termly pupil progress meeting by SLT.
- Concerns raised directly by parents or other agencies.

As well as progress in core subject areas, progress in other areas will also be considered such as social development and communication skills.

In determining whether a pupil may have SEND, consideration will also be given to other factors which may be affecting achievement including but not limited to:

- Attendance.
- English as an additional language.
- Family circumstances.
- Economic disadvantage.

The school acknowledges that consideration of these factors will be particularly important when a child is displaying challenging behaviour or becoming isolated and withdrawn. Such behaviours can often mask an unmet need and further assessments will be undertaken to determine any underlying factors affecting behaviour which may not be SEND.

Before deciding that a pupil requires additional SEND support, the SENDCO and class teacher will review current arrangements to meet the child's needs through quality first teaching and consider any further modifications and adaptations that should be put in place to support good progress. The class teacher will also consider targeted intervention where appropriate. The Senior Leadership Team and the SENDCO in the school monitors the success of these interventions and children who are not making progress access further investigation.

Section 4: Meeting the Needs of Pupils with SEND

When it is evident that a pupil will require higher levels and more tailored support than is available from everyday teaching we will offer additional SEND Support.

The SEND Register

The register provides an updated record of all pupils receiving additional SEND support so that:

Progress and achievements of pupils with SEND can be more closely monitored.

There is an overview of the range and level of need across the school.

School provision reflects and is responsive to a child's current profile of need.

Parents will be formally notified that their child will receive this additional support and be placed on the SEND register where his/her progress and provision can be monitored more closely.

Once identified as requiring additional SEND support, pupils will receive an enhanced package of support to remove barriers to learning. Our school will put in effective special educational provision. This will be managed through a four part cycle of assessment, planning, intervention and review. This cycle is known as the 'Graduated Response' and follows the model described in the SEND Code of Practice. It will enable a growing understanding of the pupil's needs and the nature of support the pupil will need to make good progress and secure positive outcomes. Depending on the need of each pupil, successive cycles may draw on more detailed approaches, more frequent review and more specialist expertise.

The Graduated Response

ASSESS:

Once identified as requiring additional SEND support a more detailed assessment of the pupil's needs will be carried out. This will include discussions with parents and, when appropriate, the pupil. The school assessments are used as part of the information gathering. In addition, where a child has a specific need, the school has the capacity to do some further testing and assessment to gain more specific information, for example oracy and SALT assessments, Lexia assessment.

We may also draw on assessments and reports from external agencies involved with the pupil such as the speech and language therapist. The SENDCO may also arrange for more diagnostic assessments to be carried out in key areas of difficulties. Each pupil's difficulties will be considered against the four broad areas of needs:

1. Communication and interaction.
2. Cognition and learning.
3. Social, emotional and mental health difficulties.
4. Sensory and/or physical needs.

The school recognises that it is highly likely that the needs of individual pupils will overlap across one or more of these areas of need, or that needs may change overtime.

This comprehensive assessment will give a detailed picture of each child's strengths and their primary and secondary special needs.

INDIVIDUAL SEND SUPPORT PLAN:

Where children have ongoing needs that are complex, the school will use the information from the assessment to draw up an individual support plan.

The plan will:

- Be outcome focused. There will be a clear evaluation process which will assess the impact of any provision.
- Outline the additional interventions and approaches that will be made available to support progress towards the desired outcomes.
- Highlight the ways parents can be involved to reinforce and contribute to progress outside of school.
- Give details of the role and input of external agencies when they are involved with a pupil.
- Be recorded on individual support plans.
- Be shared with all key teachers and support staff so that they are fully aware of the outcomes sought, the support on offer and any particular teaching strategies and approaches that have been agreed.

Parents will receive a copy of this plan with the date when it will be reviewed. The school SENDCO Mr Abubaka will oversee the reviewing and implementation of plans. Where appropriate, parents and relevant outside agencies may contribute to the plan.

TARGETED PROVISION SHEETS:

Where children have ongoing special needs that can be addressed by additional group provision and intervention, the school has a system (Edukey Provision Map) for closely monitoring the progress of individual children. Each child identified as having SEND will have a targeted provision sheet detailing information about their specific needs, the intervention chosen to address the need, and the outcome of the intervention. These sheets are regularly monitored by the intervention management team. The targeted provision sheets are stored securely.

Implementation

Class/subject teachers, with the support of the SENDCO and the senior leadership team will take the responsibility for overseeing the implementation of the individual support plan and targeted provision sheets. This will ensure that the additional support offered is linked closely to the general curriculum offered and will maximise the opportunities to reinforce and consolidate key skills within the context of the class.

This will be particularly important when the intervention takes place outside of the classroom. There will be regular liaison and feedback with staff delivering

interventions so that any required refinement of the support can be managed promptly.

Review

The impact of any additional support offered will be reviewed at least termly. Depending on the complexity and level of need, parents may be invited to attend the review, along with pupils when this is appropriate.

This review may be included in the general school cycle of parental consultation meetings. Where a pupil's needs are more complex, and they receive support from a range of specialist agencies, a separate review meeting will be arranged so that all key parties can contribute. These review meetings will take place once a term with the school SENDCO.

At the review the following will be considered:

- The impact of each element of the intervention towards the identified outcomes.
- The pupil's response to the support and their view of their progress where this is applicable.
- The views of parents and specialist agencies.
- The next steps, with refinement and adjustments to the support offered as required.

Where progress has been limited, further analysis and assessments will be made to ensure the provision offered matches the nature and level of needs. If not already involved, and with the agreement of parents, the SENDCO will make a referral to a specialist agency.

A full list of external agencies the school uses to support the progress and welfare of pupils with SEND is included in Appendix 3.

Removal from the SEND Register

If a pupil makes good progress and achieves the outcomes set, they will no longer require additional SEND support and his/her name will be removed from the register. Parents will be formally notified of this decision. Progress will continue to be monitored regularly as part of the termly tracking for all pupils.

Education Health and Care Plans

The additional needs of most of the pupils with SEND at The Federation of St Joseph's Catholic Junior, Infant and Nursery school will be met by interventions and resources from the school.

In a few cases the pupils with the most significant needs will require a more comprehensive and individualised package of support to help them achieve their outcomes and remove barriers to learning. Where this is the case the SENDCO, in consultation and agreement with parents and other specialist agencies, will make a request to the child's Local Authority for an Education Health and Care Plan (EHC plan).

Full details of the process for requesting an EHC plan can be found on the Croydon SEND offer web site (details in Appendix 3).

The EHC plan will be reviewed annually. Any additional support offered will continue to be reviewed and modified termly taking into account the views and contributions of parents, pupils and external agencies.

Section 5: Meeting the Needs of Pupils with Medical Conditions

In compliance with revised statutory guidance arrangements are in place to ensure that any pupil with a medical condition is able, as far as possible, to participate in all aspects of school life and achieve his/her academic potential.

These arrangements are set out in an Individual Health Care Plan (IHC).

The IHC plans will detail the type and nature of support that will be available. The plans will also be:

- Produced through collaboration with parents, pupils as appropriate, and health professionals.
- Shared with all relevant staff.
- Reviewed at least termly (or more frequently) to reflect changing needs and support.

Where a pupil with a medical condition also has SEND the SEN support plan will be closely linked to provision to support accessibility and additional educational needs so that there is a coordinated approach.

Staff who have responsibility to support a pupil with medical needs (including the administration and supervision of medication) will receive appropriate ongoing training and support so that they are competent and confident about their duties.

Full details of the arrangements to meet the needs of pupils with medical conditions are set out in our Medical Policy September 2019 which can be found on our school website.

Section 6: Transition Arrangements

Arrangements to support pupils with SEND moving into the school or moving to a different school:

The school is proactive in seeking to ensure that there is a successful transition between phases of education and this is a key responsibility of the SENDCO.

St Joseph's Nursery and Infant School:

For pupils joining the school in our Reception/Nursery classes the SENDCO will seek information about the nature and level of needs for pupils identified with SEND and the provision that has already been offered to overcome these barriers.

Where there is a high level of need this may involve visits to pre-school settings and information sharing meetings with the child's family and other key agencies supporting the child. This may also involve setting up a detailed 'Transition Plan' which sets out clearly how the move will be managed. This is likely to be the case where the child has a Statement or EHC plan.

St Joseph's Junior School:

For pupils moving to a secondary school or to a different school, the SENDCO will make contact with the new school to share relevant information. As above, where the child has significant needs or has a Statement or Education Health and Care Plan, there will be a formal transition meeting with parents, pupils, representatives from the new school and other key professionals to ensure there is continuity in the range and level of support offered.

Children with Educational Health and Care Plans have a formal review with the SENDCO to discuss secondary school options. Children with Educational Health and Care Plans are able to choose their secondary school before the rest of their cohort.

Section 7: Funding and Resources

The school receives additional funding from the Local Authority each year to facilitate the needs of pupils requiring additional SEND support. The value of this funding is based on a range of indicators relating to prior attainment of pupils entering the school and levels of deprivation.

The School Leadership Team, through consultation with the SENDCO and Governing Body, decide on how this funding will be deployed to meet the range and level of need for pupils with SEND across the whole school. This is a finite sum and is not adjusted through the year to take into account of any changes in the cohort of pupils with SEND.

Section 8: Training

There is an ongoing programme of training and support in place to ensure that teachers and support staff have the understanding and skills to differentiate and scaffold learning for the pupils with a range of SEND within everyday teaching.

We also have a team of staff with more specialist skills to support and deliver interventions for pupils with more complex needs. They have access to additional training to update their knowledge and skills and to respond to the needs of individuals or groups of pupils with specific needs.

Induction arrangements are in place for new staff and newly qualified teachers so that they are familiar with the schools' approach to supporting pupils with SEND.

The SENDCO attends the termly Croydon briefing sessions to keep abreast of local and national policy and initiatives to enhance SEND provision. There is also a local cluster network that the SENDCO is an active member of.

Section 9: Roles and Responsibilities

The SENDCO

The SENDCO has the day-to-day responsibility for the operation of the SEND policy and the provision in school with the support of the Headteacher. This includes the line management of teaching assistants who give support to individuals and groups of pupils with SEND. The SENDCO provides guidance and support to all staff in relation to meeting the needs of pupils with SEND. The SENDCO has a key role in developing positive partnerships with parents and other external agencies in order to fully address the needs and support the progress for pupils with SEND. The SENDCO will also take a key role in supporting the transition of pupils with SEND to different settings.

The Governing Body

The code of practice states that there should be a member of the Governing Body or a subcommittee with specific oversight of the school's arrangements for SEND. The key duties of the Governing Body are to ensure that the SEND policy is implemented and that it is effective in ensuring that pupils with SEND have the same opportunities to make good progress and play an active and fulfilling role in the life of the school as pupils with no SEND. The Governing Body will ensure the school meets all its statutory duties, ensure that additional funding is deployed effectively and the views of parents and pupils are fully considered.

The lead Governor for SEND at The Federation of St Joseph's Catholic Junior, Infant and Nursery Schools is Mrs M Bailey.

The lead Governor will meet at least termly with the SENDCO to review and evaluate the effectiveness of the Schools' SEND provision and contribute to plans to develop and enhance this provision.

The lead Governor will also ensure that updates on the quality and impact of SEND provision are regular items on the Governing Body's cycle of meetings.

Other key members of staff who are actively involved in supporting and coordinating SEND provision and part of our wider inclusion team include:

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Mapp-Nwosu. Her role is supported by Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads: Mrs Ashley the Head Teacher, Mr Abubaka the SENDCO, Mrs Langford-Jackson the Wellbeing Lead and Mrs Jackie Swain.

Section 10: Monitoring and Evaluating SEND Provision

The school undergoes an active process of continual review and improvement of provision for all pupils, including pupils with SEND.

In evaluating the quality of the SEND provision the school will take into account a range of evidence including looking at the level of achievement of pupils with SEND compared to standards achieved by this group nationally. In addition, when monitoring of interventions takes place, the views and feedback of parents are taken into consideration. A number of pupils with SEND in Yr. 6 attend their own formal review meetings with their parents and the SENDCO. All children with SEND regularly share their views about their learning with the SENDCO at SEND Book-Looks; this is an opportunity to check that they are engaged with their learning and that appropriate challenges are in place.

Section 11: Dealing with Complaints

Parents are encouraged to share any concerns they have at the earliest possible opportunity. In the first instance parents should speak to the class teacher with further discussions with the SENDCO as required.

Where these initial attempts to resolve the issue are unsuccessful, parents will be encouraged to seek advice and support from the local parent SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (Croydon - SENDIAS / Lambeth - LIASS). This is an independent and impartial service. Parents will also be encouraged to discuss concerns with other key professionals supporting their child. This might be the educational psychologist.

If issues remain unresolved parents can choose to seek the support of the local 'Disagreement Resolution Service'. This service is commissioned by Croydon LA but

operates independently. They can provide a quick and non-adversarial way of resolving disagreements.

If concerns are still unresolved parents will be asked to make a formal complaint and be directed to the School Complaints Procedures.

Where the parental complaint is directly related to decisions around an EHC assessment of needs or provision, this will be managed directly by the Croydon SEND team. Parents will be contacted directly to receive information about the mediation services available.

Section 11: Anti-Bullying

We recognise that pupils with SEND are vulnerable to bullying, and the impact that bullying can have on emotional health and wellbeing. Members of staff have completed online training to raise their awareness of bullying and to highlight the difficulties pupils with SEND can face. Within their PSHE lead roles, Mrs Ashley and Mrs Mapp have responsibility for our Anti-bullying policy and procedures.

When necessary, pupils with SEND will be given a named adult to report concerns to. They also have the option of reporting to the head boy or head girl from the Student Council. Through careful monitoring of bullying incidents and a regular review of anti-bullying policies and practices with the school community we ensure our effectiveness in reducing and responding to bullying. Mr Abubaka SENDCO, co-ordinates the SEND named adults system.

(*Reflects best guidance set out by Achievement For All and Anti-Bullying Alliance in Reducing the Impact of Incidence of Bullying on Learners with SEND 2013.)

Section 12: Disability Access Arrangements

In compliance with the duties set out in the Equalities Act 2010 the school has an accessibility plan which outlines the actions we will take over time to increase the accessibility of pupils.

This includes action to:

- Increase participation in the curriculum.
- Make improvements in the environment to enable pupils with disabilities to benefit from all school facilities and extracurricular opportunities.
- Improve access to a range of information.

Our accessibility plan forms part of our Disability Equalities Policy which can be found on our school website.

Section 13: Internet and Online Safety

In compliance with Keeping Children Safe in Education (2023) our school has recognised internet safety is a paramount concern, particularly in ensuring the protection of children with SEND. We are committed to providing a safe online environment that caters to the unique needs of our SEND students. Our strategies include implementing age appropriate content filters, monitoring online activities and educating both students and staff about responsible internet use.

For detailed information on our approach to internet safety and the specific measures in place for children with SEND, please refer to our Safeguarding Policy. This policy outlines comprehensive guidelines and protocols to ensure a secure digital learning environment.

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Compliance with Statutory Duties

This policy meets requirements set out in the Children and Families Act 2014. It is written with reference to the following legislation and documents:

- Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice 0-25 Years (Updated April 2020)
- Equalities Act 2010
- School Admissions Code of Practice
- Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions June 2014 (Updated August 2017)
- Schools Complaint Toolkit 2014 (Updated March 2019)
- The National Curriculum
- Teachers Standards 2012
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013 (Updated July 2018)
- Keeping Children safe in Education (Updated June 2023)

Croydon's local offer for SEND:

<https://localoffer.croydon.gov.uk/kb5/croydon/directory/home.page>

Appendix 2: Definition of Special Educational Needs

SEND Code of Practice 2014 (Updated April 2020)

A child or young person has SEND 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 has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she has:

- A significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of other pupils of the same age or
- 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 of post 16 institutions.

Equality Act 2010

A disability is a physical or mental impairment which has a long term and substantial adverse effect on an individual's ability to carry out normal day to day activities. This definition includes:

- Sensory impairments such as those affecting sight and hearing
- Long term health issues such as asthma, epilepsy and cancer

Appendix 3: Links with Local and National services and organisations to support implementation of the SEND policy:

Name	Contact Details (January 2024)
Croydon Education Partnership	Tel: 020 8241 5460
Croydon CAMHS	Tel: 020 3228 0000 Find out about CAMHS services for children and young people in Croydon Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS): Guidance for Parents and Carers Croydon Local Offer
Croydon Occupational Therapy	Children's Occupational Therapy Croydon Health Services NHS Trust Address: Crystal Children's Development Centre Malling Close, Addiscombe Croydon, CR0 7YD Tel: 020 8274 6854/6850
Croydon Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) Service	Croydon health services - children's speech Email: ch-tr.sltcroydonchildren@nhs.net Address: Sanderstead Clinic 40 Rectory Park Sanderstead, Croydon, CR2 9JN Tel: 020 8714 2594
Community Paediatrics	Community Paediatrics Croydon

	<p>Health Services NHS Trust</p> <p>Crystal Children's Development Centre (CCDC), Malling Cl, Croydon CR0 7YD, Tel: 020 8274 6850</p> <p>Leander Road Health Centre, 939 London Rd, Thornton Heath CR7 6JE, Tel: 020 8274 6846</p> <p>Parkway, New Addington (Tuesday morning on a monthly basis) Tel: 020 8274 2950 for details of appointment times</p>
Croydon Early Help	Early help support Croydon Council
Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership	Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership
Croydon Single Point of Contact (SPOC)	<p>Child protection and safeguarding Croydon Council</p> <p>MASH Tel: 0208 255 2888</p> <p>MASH Professionals Consultation Line Tel: 0208 726 6464 (1pm to 4:30pm)</p>
Croydon Fair Access Panel	<p>Exclusions, Fair Access Panel (FAP) and Primary Inclusion Forum Croydon Local Offer</p> <p>Email: valerie.Burrell-Walker@croydon.gov.uk</p> <p>Tel: 020 8726 6162</p>
Croydon's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIAS)	<p>Croydon SENDIASS - Kids</p> <p>Email: croydon@kids.org.uk</p> <p>Tel: 0208 663 5630 / 5631</p>
Lambeth Information, Advice and Support Service (LIASS)	Lambeth IASS



	Email: lambethiass@lambeth.gov.uk Tel: 020 7926 1831 or 020 7926 9805.
Contact A Family	Contact a Family Email: helpline@contact.org.uk Tel: 0808 808 3555