



Strawberry Lane School

SEN Policy 2025-2026

Approved by:	Adam Price	Issue Date: March 2025
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Introduction

This policy seeks to support the school ethos to strive to provide a caring, structured learning environment in which all pupils can develop academically, socially and emotionally, to their full potential and in which pupils and staff feel safe, secure and valued.

Background

All pupils attending Strawberry Lane School have social communication difficulties and typically also have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC). In all cases, the individual needs of our learners have, for various reasons, proved too complex to have been successfully addressed within mainstream schools. Many of our pupils also have additional learning difficulties, speech and language difficulties, sensory impairments and/or physical difficulties to varying degrees. The school makes every effort to identify and assess pupils' special educational needs and to provide effective support and a suitably differentiated curriculum, enabling them to progress and succeed to the best of their ability.

Implementation: It is the responsibility of line managers to ensure that staff members are aware of and understand this policy and any subsequent revisions.

Compliance: This policy complies with all relevant regulations and other legislation as detailed in the Compliance with Regulations & Legislation Statement.

2.0 DEFINITION OF SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Children have special educational needs if they have a learning difficulty which calls for special educational provision to be made for them.

Children have learning difficulties if they:

- a) have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children of the same age; or
- b) have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of educational facilities of a kind generally provided for children of the same age in schools within the area of the local education authority.
- c) are under compulsory school age and fall within the definition at (a) or (b) above or would so do if special educational provision was not made for them.

Special educational provision means: educational provision, which is additional to, or different from, the educational provision made generally for children of their age in schools maintained by the LA (Local Authority), other than special schools, in the area. All our pupils Strawberry Lane School because it has been identified that their needs cannot be met within their Local Authority provision

3.0 THE SEN AIMS OF THE SCHOOL

- To provide a differentiated curriculum appropriate to the individual's needs and ability.
- To ensure that all pupils have access and participate as much as possible in all school activities.
- To ensure that parents and carers of pupils are kept fully informed of their child's progress and attainment to ensure that pupils are involved, where practicable, in decisions affecting their future SEN provision.

Whilst many factors contribute to the range of difficulties experienced by our pupils, we believe that much can be done to overcome them or lessen their impact, by pupils, parents/carers, and teachers working together to achieve each young person's set outcomes.

4.0 ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provision for the pupils is a matter for the school as a whole. The Headteacher and all other members of staff have important day-to-day responsibilities.
- The Headteacher, supported by the Deputy Headteacher, have responsibility for the day-to-day management of all aspects of the school's work. The Headteacher is Adam Price and can be contacted by email at adam.price@strawberrylaneschool.co.uk
- All education staff are involved in the development of the school's policy and are aware of the school's procedures for making SEN provision and monitoring and reviewing that provision in line with the set guidance in the Code of Practice.
- Jen Brownsell is the school SENCO and can be contacted by email at jen.brownsell@strawberrylaneschool.co.uk

5.0 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS & INCLUSION

Strawberry Lane School is set up to meet the specific needs of learners with Autism and co-occurring complex needs. Strawberry Lane School believes that the admissions criteria should not discriminate against pupils with SEN and has due regard for the practice advocated in the revised Code of Practice 2014, in that all schools should admit pupils with already identified special educational needs. Please refer to our Admissions Policy and Procedures for more information.

6.0 PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

Strawberry Lane School firmly believes that partnership with parents/carers plays a key role in promoting a culture of collaborative working between parents, schools, Local Authorities, and any other external agencies. This is important in enabling our pupils to achieve their potential.

Parents should be supported to be able and empowered to:

- Recognise and fulfil their responsibilities as parents/carers playing an active and valued role in their child's education and supporting them to achieve their outcomes.



- Have knowledge of their child's entitlement within the SEN framework.
- make their views known about how their child is educated.
- have access to information, advice and support during assessment and any related decision making.
- understand the processes about special education provision.

Parents and carers will be encouraged to play an important role when their child starts at Strawberry Lane School. They will be encouraged to visit the school and spend time settling their child into their environment and meeting the key staff who will work with their child.

- Parents and carers will be asked to contribute to their child's One Page Profile, a document that reflects the child's or young person's voice, allowing them to share what is most important to them and how best they can be supported to achieve their potential.
- It will be agreed how best to contact parents and carers to provide updates on their child's progress and wellbeing.

When pupils are "looked after" by the Local Authorities, every effort is made to ensure that parents and carers are encouraged to continue to play an active role in their child's education.

7.0 PUPIL PARTICIPATION

Where possible, pupils at Strawberry Lane School participate in all the decision-making processes that occur in education, including the setting of learning targets and contributing to the Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) annual review and transition processes. Some pupils at Strawberry Lane School might have severe communication difficulties, therefore, determining their views may not always be easy, but the principle of seeking and taking into account the ascertainable view of the child is important. Each pupil will have a One-Page Profile which they will be supported in completing, reviewing and updating regularly. This profile will outline what is important to them, how they can be best supported and their aspirations for the future.

8.0 ASSESSMENT, CURRICULUM & PROVISION

At Strawberry Lane School, teachers deliver National Curriculum subjects in ways that meet the individual learning requirements of the pupils. This will be in small groups, following a fluid and flexible approach to achieving learning outcomes. Our learning environments and teaching strategies are influenced by staff's training in Autism and Trauma Informed Practice. The setting has been designed in line with the Total Communication approach. These approaches underpin our ethos of inclusivity and support Strawberry Lane School's vision. Please refer to our curriculum policy for further information.

Evidence for learning is an assessment tool that allows us to build a unique picture of each learner by capturing evidence from all stakeholders. This journey of evidence allows us to be effective in how we support each individual learner. The evidence will also inform outcomes for the pupil's EHCP review.

All pupils at Strawberry Lane School have short-term targets which are monitored using our Assess, Plan, Do, Review cycle. Strategies for ensuring a pupil's progress will be recorded in

their targets. Progress made towards targets is reviewed at termly multi-disciplinary team meetings alongside the SENDCO, clinical team, and key tutor. These short-term targets are steps towards the child achieving the long-term outcomes as stated in their EHCP.

9.0 ANNUAL REVIEW

EHCP reviews take place at least annually and also in line with key transitions. For children/young people transferring between phases of education, reviews must be in the summer term. This is a full academic year before transfer.

Key Transfer Phase	When the SEN review must be held
Year 5 child	Summer term of Y5, one year prior to transfer from primary to secondary
Year 6	Between February and May half terms
Year 10 young person	Summer term of Y10, one year prior to transfer from secondary to post-16
Year 11	Early in the summer term
Post 16	Summer term

The Annual Review should:

- Assess the child's progress towards meeting the objectives/outcomes as specified in their EHCP
- Review special educational provision made for the child
- Review current levels of attainment in all subject areas
- Consider the continuing appropriateness of the EHCP
- Set new targets for the coming year

The SENDCo initiates the review process, sets a date, and invites attendees.

In preparing for the review meeting, the SENDCo must request advice, at least 6 weeks prior to the review from:

- Pupil's parents and carers
- Therapy involvement (as specified within provision)
- Anyone specified by the authorities
- Anyone else the SENDCo considers appropriate



The review report is prepared by the class teacher. The clinical team will also write a contribution for each annual review and, where necessary, written advice will be prepared by the Clinical Psychologist.

A copy of all advice received must be made available to all those invited to the review meeting at least three weeks before the date of the meeting.

The Annual Review meeting is chaired by the SENDCo.

The SENDCo provides the Local Authority with a report following each Annual Review meeting within 15 days of the meeting being held. The report summarises the outcome of the review meeting, setting out the SENDCo's assessment of the main issues discussed at the meeting, the recommendations about educational targets for the coming year and any other steps that ought to be taken.

Ways that information for EHCP reviews is shared with stakeholders will differ depending on the Local Authority that is supporting the EHCP for the child or young person. Procedures may differ between the various local authorities we work with.

10.0 LINKS WITH EXTERNAL AGENCIES

The school recognises the important contribution that external support services make in assisting to identify, assess, and provide for our pupils. We welcome multi-agency meetings to ensure that the pupil is receiving the maximum support available.

Important links are in place with the specialist services in our locality.

USEFUL CONTACTS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

[Durham SEND Information Advice and Support Service](#)

[Home - SENDIASS Sunderland](#)

[SEND IASS - for young people - Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council](#)

[National Autistic Society](#)

[Special educational needs and disabilities \(SEND\) and our Local](#)

[Offer - Durham](#)

[Local Offer | Sunderland Information Point](#)

[SEND Local Offer - Education - Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council](#)