

Alma Primary Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Policy

SENDCo/ Inclusion Leader: *Clare Stephens*
SEND Governor: *Vicky Shafran*
Last review date: *February 2024*
Next review date: *Summer 2025*

*Both the SENDCo and SEND Governor can be contacted
via the school office on 0208 343 9988 or office@almaprimary.org*

Contents

Introduction	Page 1
Personnel, Our vision and Aims	Page 3
Objectives, Areas of SEND	Page 4
Access to the Curriculum	Page 6
Identifying, assessing and supporting children with SEND	Page 7
Roles and Responsibilities	Page 11
Admissions, Local Offer	Page 14
Training and Support for staff, Working in partnership	Page 15
Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions and/or Disabilities	Page 17
Preventing Bullying, Monitoring and Evaluating, Complaints	Page 17
Safeguarding	Page 18
Complaints	Page 19
Data and Record Keeping	Page 19
Confidentiality	Page 19
Monitoring and Review	Page 19

Alma Primary SEND Policy

1. Introduction

This policy outlines the framework Alma Primary uses to meet its duties and obligations to provide high quality education to all its pupils, including pupils with special educational needs and / or disabilities.

In 2014 Parliament approved a new 'Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years'. This was revised in January 2015. This policy has been developed based on the January 2015 version of the CoP, as well as other statutory documentation and guidance, including the Schools SEN Information Report Regulations (2014), the Children and Families Act (2014) and related regulations, the Health and Social Care Act (2012), the Equality Act (2010), Every Child Matters, the Disability and Discrimination Act (2006), the Mental Capacity Act (2005), the Children's Act 1989 and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

This policy also has due regard to statutory and non-statutory guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (2015) 'Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years'
- DfE (2015) 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions'
- DfE (2022) 'Keeping children safe in education 2022'
- DfE (2018) 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018'
- DfE (2018) 'Mental health and wellbeing provision in schools'
- DfE (2021) 'School Admissions Code'
- DfE (2023) 'Keeping children safe in education 2023'
- EHRC (2015) 'Reasonable Adjustments for Disabled Pupils (Equalities and Human Rights Commission)

Every school is required to identify and address the SEND of the pupils that they support. Through the implementation of this policy, the school will:

- Designate a teacher to be responsible for co-ordinating SEND provision (SENDCo)
- Provide identification of children and young people's needs and endeavour to ensure that pupils with SEND get the support they need to access the broad and balanced curriculum
- Ensure that pupils with SEND engage in the activities of the school, alongside other pupils
- Fulfil its statutory duties towards pupils with SEND, in light of the SEND Code of Practice, including putting in place provision to promote the best outcomes for all pupils in both progress and attainment;
- Promote disability equality and equality of opportunity, fulfilling its duties under the Equality Act 2010 towards individual disabled pupils
- Make reasonable adjustments, including the provision of auxiliary aids and services, to ensure that disabled pupils are not at a substantial disadvantage compared with their peers
- Inform parents/carers when making special educational provision for their child, and work in partnership to deliver the best co-ordinated support
- Ensure collaboration between education, health and social care services to provide support;
- Ensure there is high quality provision to meet the needs of children with SEND, with specific focus on inclusive practice and removing barriers to learning

Alma Primary SEND Policy

- Support transition for children with SEND between years and into the next stage of education or alternative type of education if required, maintaining close links with the support services and other professionals and agencies.
- Review, prepare and publish important information about the school, and its implementation of relevant SEND policies, to include: Accessibility Plans (curriculum and physical environment); Admission Arrangements (steps taken to prevent less favourable treatment than others); SEN Information Report (implementation of policy)

2. Personnel

Providing Special Educational provision is a whole school responsibility:

- SENDCo: Clare Stephens
 - Collaborate with Head Teacher SLT and Governors, to determine the strategic development of SEND;
 - Co-ordinate specific provision to support children with SEN;
 - Liaise with all stakeholders and outside agencies and be the key point of contact.
 - Liaise with the relevant designated teacher for LAC with SEND.
 - Liaise with the parents of pupils with SEND.
 - Liaise with the potential future providers of education to ensure that pupils and their parents are informed about the options, and a smooth transition is planned.
 - Ensure that the school keeps the records of all pupils with SEND up-to-date, in line with the school's Data Protection Policy.
 - Provide
 - professional guidance to colleagues, and working closely with staff, parents and other agencies.
 - Being familiar with the provision in the Local Offer and being able to work with professionals who are providing a supporting role to the family.
 -
- Head teacher: Marc Shoffren
 - Ensure the school holds high expectations of all pupils, including those with SEND;
 - Ensure the broad and balanced curriculum is accessible to all children and that quality of provision is regularly assessed;
 - Ensure the school fulfils its statutory duties with regard to the SEND Code of Practice.
- SEND Governor: Vicky Shafran
 - Ensure the SEND policy is implemented fairly across the school;
 - Ensure the school meets its duties in relation to supporting children with SEND;
 - Ensure there is a qualified teacher designated as SENDCo/Inclusion Leader for the school.
- Class Teachers:
 - Work alongside the SENDCo, and outside agencies where required, to ensure recommended programmes are implemented

Alma Primary SEND Policy

- Understand and implement strategies to identify and support vulnerable pupils with SEND, with the support of the SENDCo, ensuring that there are no barriers to every child achieving
- Adapt and/or differentiate lessons to ensure that high expectations are set for all pupils, under Quality First Teaching

A more in-depth description of these roles can be found in section 9

3. Our Vision and Aims

At Alma Primary we welcome all children including those who may be identified as having Special Educational Needs or disabilities (SEND). We have high expectations for our children and will work to ensure all children make progress in their academic as well as social and emotional development.

Inclusion is at the centre of our schools aims and values. We believe that inclusion is successful when attitudes are welcoming, positive and empathetic, as well as when there is sufficient and appropriate support for the child, the parents and the school, ensuring the establishment of good links. Our priority is to ensure that every child with SEND has access to the right support. To this end, we work hard to maintain links with parents and health, social care and education professionals.

This policy ensures that provision for children with SEND takes account of the type and extent of the difficulty experienced by the child and involves them and their families in addressing their needs.

A child has a special educational need and/ or disability if they have:

- Significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age;
- A disability or health condition which prevents or hinders them from making use of educational facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age.
- Special educational provision that is additional to, and different from that made generally for other children of the same age.

At Alma Primary every teacher has responsibility for meeting the needs of each child in their class, with or without an assessment of SEND.

We aim to maintain an atmosphere of encouragement, acceptance and respect for achievements in which all children can thrive, as well as to develop sensitivity to individual needs and a climate of warmth and support in which self-confidence and self-esteem can grow. We have a graduated response to identifying and supporting children with SEND. If there is a concern, a referral to the SENDCo should accompany a structured and well-differentiated teaching programme.

This policy works within the guidance provided by the revised SEND Code of Practice (2015), to communicate the systems we use to ensure high quality provision for children with SEND, alongside our systems for communicating and working with parents/carers, staff, external professionals, the local community and the Local Authority.

4. Objectives: the practice of supporting students with SEND at Alma Primary

We will achieve these aims by ensuring that we

Alma Primary SEND Policy

- Provide differentiation, or adaptation, within a broad and balanced curriculum, in a way that supports children with SEND, ensuring that there is a whole school approach, and that staff understand the implications of the Disability Discrimination Act;
- Identify and assess children with SEND as early as possible, providing appropriate intervention and support;
- Maintain clear procedures for identifying children with SEND which are known and understood by all staff;
- Raise awareness of approaches to SEND, through appropriate INSET for all staff;
- Provide advice and support for all staff working with children with additional needs;
- Develop the monitoring and assessment procedures to track the progress of children with SEND, ensuring records relating to SEND follow the child through the school and are clear, accurate and up to date;
- Provide adequate resourcing for SEND.

5. Identifying SEND

The school recognises that early identification and effective provision improves long-term outcomes for children. As part of the overall approach to monitoring the progress and development of all children, it has a clear approach to identifying and responding to SEND as outlined in the school's SEN Information Report.

The school assesses, plans, manages and reviews SEND provision across the following four broad areas of need:

- Communication and interaction;
 - Cognition and learning;
 - Social, emotional and mental health;
 - Sensory and/or physical.
- or a combination of these.

Teachers at Alma Primary will conduct appropriate assessments for all children, with the aim of identifying those who are making less than expected progress, given their age and individual circumstances. 'Less than expected progress' will be characterised by progress which:

- Is significantly slower than that of their peers starting from the same baseline;
- Does not match or better the pupil's previous rate of progress;
- Fails to close the attainment gap between them and their peers;
- Widens the attainment gap rather than narrowing this gap.

The purpose of identification is to work out what action is required in order to provide the right level of support. At Alma Primary we identify the needs of children by considering the whole child, not just the special educational needs of the child.

The following descriptions of the four areas are derived from the SEN Code of Practice 2015:

Alma Primary SEND Policy

5.1 Communication and interaction

Children and young people with speech, language and communication need (SLCN) have difficulty in communicating with others. This may be because they have difficulty saying what they want to, understanding what is being said to them or they do not understand or use social rules of communication. Individual SLC needs vary and may change over time. They may have difficulty with one, some or all of the different aspects of speech, language or social communication at different times of their lives.

5.2 Cognition and learning

Support for learning difficulties may be required when children and young people learn at a slower pace than their peers, even with appropriate differentiation. Learning difficulties cover a wide range of needs, including moderate learning difficulties (MLD), severe learning difficulties (SLD), where children are likely to need support in all areas of the curriculum and associated difficulties with mobility and communication, through to profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD), where children are likely to have severe and complex learning difficulties as well as a physical disability or sensory impairment.

Specific learning difficulties (SpLD), affect one or more specific aspects of learning. This encompasses a range of conditions such as Dyslexia, Dyscalculia and Dyspraxia.

5.3 Social, emotional and mental health difficulties

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

Identifying behaviour as a need is not an acceptable way of describing SEND. Any concerns relating to a child or young person's behaviour should be described as an underlying response to a need that falls within the four broad categories of SEND.

5.4 Sensory and/or physical needs

Some children and young people require special educational provision because they have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of the educational facilities generally provided.

6. SEND and Other Characteristics

In addition to SEND, children may have other characteristics that can impact on their learning and/or wellbeing. These might include:

- Disability (the Code of Practice outlines the "reasonable adjustment" duty for all settings and schools provided under current Disability Equality legislation – these alone do not constitute SEN)
- EAL (English as an Additional Language)
- Medical needs
- Being in receipt of Pupil Premium Grant

Alma Primary SEND Policy

- LGBTQ+
- Being a Looked After Child (LAC) or Previously Looked After Child (PLAC)
- Being a child of Service personnel.

Although some of these characteristics, such as EAL, may link to some aspects of SEN, these all fall under separate areas of provision and are, accordingly, addressed in other policy documents. Children with these characteristics should not be regarded as having SEND per se, although they may also have SEND.

All staff are expected to be alert to possible harassment of those who have protected characteristics, both inside and outside of the school, and to deal with incidents of harassment and discrimination in accordance with the school's policy on inclusion.

7. Access to the curriculum

The school's SENDCo is responsible for the operational management of the specified and agreed resourcing for special needs provision within the school, including the provision for children with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP).

At Alma Primary our approach to need is a graduated response using three 'waves' of support for children:

- i. Wave One: High quality class teaching using a differentiated/adapted curriculum (Quality First Teaching).
- ii. Wave Two: Small group intervention for children who can be expected to catch up with their peers as a result of the intervention. These are not primarily SEND interventions.
- iii. Wave Three: These are specifically targeted interventions for children identified as requiring SEND support.

The variety of provision we make for children includes:

- Quality First Teaching
- A differentiated or adapted curriculum.
- Appropriate resources including assistive technology.
- Interventions including small group and individual work.
- 1:1 support for individual children
- Social and Emotional learning support through nurture groups

Where necessary and appropriate, Individual Education Plans (IEPs) will assist class teachers and learning support assistants in differentiating the curriculum. Through this varied provision and with high expectations, we aim to maximise progress whatever a child's starting point.

Quality First Teaching

High quality differentiated teaching with appropriate resources is the basis for learning at Alma. The following steps are taken to address the varying needs of children in every class:

- Any child at Alma prompting concern through under performance will be monitored in order to identify potential barriers to learning and concerns explored with the SENDCo.
- The class teacher will ensure that appropriately differentiated learning opportunities are provided to enable staff to better understand the learning needs of the child.

Alma Primary SEND Policy

- The SENDCo will provide support and advice, and may observe the child in order to determine any required provision.
- A meeting will be arranged with the child's parents to raise any concerns. Following this, parents will be clearly informed about the monitoring being undertaken, their child's development and any intervention being offered. Parents are encouraged to share information and knowledge with the school.
- Parents' learning journey meetings will provide additional opportunities to share information with parents about their child's learning and to agree targets to support progress.

8. Assessing and supporting children with SEND

At Alma Primary we will cater for different needs through careful planning. We will record all children's progress as part of our monitoring and assessment practices. In the Foundation Stage these will include child observations along with records of progress. In Key Stage One and Two, we will carry out termly tracking of progress in maths, reading, writing and Ivrit.

SEN Support

The school is aware of its statutory duty to provide a broad and balanced curriculum and recognises that high quality teaching, which is differentiated or adapted for individual pupils, is the first step in responding to pupils who have or may have SEND. Teachers at the school will:

- Set high expectations for every pupil;
- Plan stretching work for pupils whose attainment is significantly above the expected standard;
- Plan lessons for pupils who have low levels of prior attainment or come from disadvantaged backgrounds;
- Use appropriate assessment to set targets which are deliberately ambitious;
- Plan lessons to ensure that there are no barriers to every pupil achieving;
- Be responsible and accountable for the progress and development of the pupils in their class, including where pupils access support from learning support assistants or specialist staff.

Decisions on whether to put in place special educational provision for pupils will be based upon:

- Discussions between the teacher and SENDCo;
- Analysis of the pupil's progress – using internal formative and summative assessments, alongside national data and expectations of progress;
- Discussion with the pupil and their parent.

Where it is determined by the SENDCo working with the class teacher, that a child may have Special Educational Needs, then additional support will be needed that is additional to, and different from that provided for other children. The support follows an 'Assess – Plan – Do - Review' cycle.

This is an on-going cycle to enable any provision to be refined and revised as the understanding of the needs of the child grows. This cycle enables the identification of interventions that are the most effective in supporting the child's learning.

- **Assess:** as above

Alma Primary SEND Policy

- **Plan:** Planning will involve consultation between the teacher, SENDCo and parents to agree the adjustments, interventions and support that are required; the impact on progress, development and or behaviour that is expected and a clear date for review. Parental involvement may be sought, where appropriate, to reinforce or contribute to progress at home.

All those working with the child, including support staff, will be informed of their individual needs, the support that is being provided, any particular teaching strategies/approaches that are being employed and the outcomes that are being sought.

- **Do:** The class teacher remains responsible for working with the child on a day-to-day basis. They will retain responsibility even where the interventions may involve group or one-to-one teaching away from the main class teacher. They will work closely with learning support assistants and external professionals to plan and assess the impact of support and interventions and links with classroom teaching. Support with further assessment of the child's strengths and weaknesses, problem solving and advising of the implementation of effective support will be provided by the SENDCo.
- **Review:** Reviews of a child's progress will be made regularly. The review process will evaluate the impact and quality of the support and interventions. It will also take account of the views of the child and their parents. The class teacher, in conjunction with the SENDCo will revise the support and outcomes based on the child's progress and development making any necessary amendments going forward, in consultation with parents.

The school will take great care over the identification and assessment of children whose first language is not English. We do not assume that lack of progress in English means that a child has a special educational need. However, we are aware that for some children, slow progress may be a result of a special educational need.

Early Years providers are required to have arrangements in place to identify and support children with SEND and to promote equality of opportunity for children in their care. These requirements are set out in the EYFS framework.

The school will consider whether additional pastoral support and attention for pupils with SEND is required, alongside ensuring that any appropriate support for communication is in place.

EAL

Alma Primary is aware that there may be pupils at the school for whom English is not their first language and appreciates that having EAL is not equated to having learning difficulties. At the same time, when pupils with EAL make slow progress, it will not be assumed that their language status is the only reason; they may have SEND.

The school will consider the pupil within the context of their home, culture and community and look carefully at all aspects of a pupil's performance in different subjects to establish whether the problems they have in the classroom are due to limitations in their command of English or arise from SEND.

Alma Primary SEND Policy

Individual Education Plans (IEPs)

- Some children will require an IEP to help target and monitor provision appropriately. This is normally as a result of extensive support from an external professional or if the child has significant needs requiring a package of support.
- They will be reviewed and updated three times a year by the SENDCo and class teacher in consultation with parents/carers.
- Outcomes will normally be specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time limited (SMART). There will generally be a maximum of four outcomes on an IEP.
- IEPs are kept on the school server available to class teachers and LSAs.

If a child is making adequate progress, he or she may no longer need to receive SEN provision. We will consider a child to have made adequate progress when s/he no longer meets our criteria for SEN. We will record this discussion in the SEN records, and we will keep these SEN records for reference in the children's office file and pass them on when he or she transfers to another school.

Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP)

Alma Primary will meet its duty to respond to the local authority within 15 days, if it is named on a pupil's EHC plan.

The school will admit any child that names the school in an EHC plan if it feels it can reasonably meet the needs of that child.

The school will ensure that all those teaching or working with a child named in an EHC plan, are aware of the child's needs and that arrangements are in place to meet them.

Reviewing an EHC plan

Alma Primary will:

- Hold annual review meetings within the given time frame.
- Seek advice and information about the child prior to the annual review meeting from all parties invited;
- Send any advice and information gathered to all those invited at least two weeks prior to the annual review meeting;
- Prepare and send a report of the meeting to everyone invited within 2 weeks of the meeting;

Involving Parents and Children

Effective planning should help parents, children and young people with SEND express their needs, wishes and goals, and should:

- Focus on the child or young person as an individual, not their SEND label.
- Be easy for children, young people and their parents to understand and use clear ordinary language and images, rather than professional jargon.
- Highlight the child or young person's strengths and capacities.

Alma Primary SEND Policy

- Enable the child or young person, and those who know them best, to say what they have done, what they are interested in and what outcomes they are seeking in future.
- Tailor support to the needs of the individual.
- Organise assessments to minimise demands on families.
- Bring together relevant professionals to discuss and agree together the overall approach.

9. Roles and Responsibilities:

The Governors and staff at Alma Primary recognise that provision for children with SEND is a matter for the school as a whole.

The Governing Body is responsible for ensuring that the school:

- Fully engages with parents and children with SEND when drawing up policies that affect them;
- Identifies, assess and makes provision for all children and young people with SEND, whether or not they have an EHC plan.
- Uses their best endeavours to secure the special educational provision called for by a child or young person's SEND.
- Designates an appropriate member of staff (SENDCo) as having responsibility for co-ordinating provision for pupils with SEND. They must be a qualified teacher and be qualified in the field of SEN, either through years of experience, or by attaining the National Award in Special Educational Needs Coordination.
- Appoints a Designated Teacher for 'looked after' children where appropriate.
- Makes reasonable adjustments for children with disabilities to help alleviate any substantial disadvantage they experience because of their disability.
- Takes necessary steps to ensure that children with disabilities are not discriminated against, harassed or victimised.
- Publishes annual information about the arrangements for the admission of pupils with disabilities, the steps taken to prevent children from being treated less favourably than others, the facilities provided to assist pupils with disabilities.
- Publishes accessibility plans, setting out measures and facilities to increase access for pupils with disabilities to the curriculum, and the physical environment. This information should be reviewable every 3 years.
- Provides suitable, full-time education from the 6th day of a fixed permanent exclusion of a pupil with SEND, in line with their EHC plan.
- Ensures that the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy addresses additional safeguarding challenges that children with SEND may face.

In addition, the governing body will appoint a named governor to have responsibility for the implementation of the SEN policy. It is the responsibility of the Governor appointed:

- To be fully involved in developing and monitoring the SEN policy;
- To have up to date knowledge about the school's SEN provision, including funding;
- To know how equipment and personnel resources are deployed;
- To ensure that SEN provision is an integral part of the school.

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- Allocate roles and responsibilities to staff so that special needs are met.

Alma Primary SEND Policy

- Liaise with staff, SENDCo, support services, parents and pupils.
- Report to governors on the needs of the SEND children in the school.
- Ensure that those teaching or working with the pupil are aware of their needs, and have arrangements in place to meet the needs of SEND children within the school.
- Ensure that teachers monitor and review the pupil's progress during the course of the academic year.
- Ensure that the SENDCo has sufficient time and resources to carry out their functions.
- Provide the SENDCo with sufficient administrative support and time away from teaching to enable them to fulfil their responsibilities in a similar way to other important strategic roles within the school.
- Review the quality of teaching for pupils at risk of underachievement, as a core part of the school's performance management arrangements.
- Ensure that teachers understand the strategies to identify and support vulnerable pupils and possess knowledge of the SEND most frequently encountered.

The SENDCo is responsible for:

- Work with the Headteacher and the school governors to determine the strategic development of SEND policy and provision in the school and to ensure that the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act (2010) with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements;
- Undertake day-to-day responsibility for the operation of SEND policy, playing a key role in delivering the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision and overseeing the day-to-day operation of the school's SEND policy,
- Advise on a graduated approach to providing SEND support, acting as an advocate for the rights of children with disabilities or identified SEN.
- Coordinate the specific provision made to support individual children with SEND, including those who have EHC plans and liaising with the relevant designated teacher where a looked after pupil has SEND;
- Draw up a profile of the child or young person with SEND and work with professionals providing a support role to the family, ensuring that IEPs and records of all pupils with SEND are kept up-to-date;
- Contribute to INSET meetings with information about SEND pupils, planning CPD to help raise awareness and standards of differentiation, special needs and inclusion and to promote staff development in relation to SEND.
- Liaise with the parents of pupils with SEND, discussing and supporting needs and progress, and informing the child's parents that SEN provision is being made, where the child does not have an EHC plan;
- Be a key point of contact with external agencies, especially the LA and LA support services, early years providers, other schools, educational psychologists, health and social care professionals, and independent or voluntary bodies;
- Liaise with the potential future providers of education to ensure that the pupil and their parents are informed about options and a smooth transition is planned;

Alma Primary SEND Policy

- Advise on the deployment of the school's delegated budget and other resources to meet pupils' needs effectively;
- Become a resource for teachers on SEND, inclusion and differentiation and to guide teachers implementing the School's policies relating to SEND and inclusion, giving advice on the level of support and on appropriate resources and strategies to support learning, and working closely with staff members, parents, carers, and other agencies, including SEND organisations;
- Monitor the needs of SEND together with the Head teacher and class teachers, regularly auditing School provision for special needs and differentiation, and ensuring that provision for pupils with SEND is accurately mapped;
- Ensure, as far as possible, that pupils with SEND take part in activities of the school together with those who do not have SEN, including on forums;
- Keep their own skills updated by reading, researching & attending INSET on SEND and appropriate related external courses.

The DSL is responsible for:

- Liaise with the Headteacher to inform them of any issues, especially ongoing enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and police investigations regarding children with SEND.
- Liaise with the relevant staff on matters of safety, safeguarding and welfare, including online and digital safety regarding pupils with SEND.
- Liaise with the SENDCo where appropriate regarding safeguarding concerns for a child with SEND.
- Promote supportive engagement with parents and/or carers in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children with SEND, including where families may be facing challenging circumstances.
- Work with the headteacher and relevant strategic leads, taking lead responsibility for promoting educational outcomes by knowing the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues that children with SEND are experiencing or have experienced, and identifying the impact that these issues might be having on pupil's attendance, engagement and achievements.
- Recognise the additional risks that children with SEND face online, e.g., from online bullying, grooming and radicalisation, and ensuring they have the capability to support pupils with SEND to stay safe online.

Class Teachers are responsible for:

- Identify the Special Educational Needs and / or Disabilities of individual children in their class;
- Plan and review support for their pupils with SEND, on a graduated basis, in collaboration with parents, the SENDCo and, where appropriate, the pupil themselves, to provide learning experiences which are appropriate to the needs of every child;

Alma Primary SEND Policy

- Write Individual Education Plans for pupils on the school's SEND Register, and those with an EHCP, maintaining an SEN file for their class reflecting this information for each individual child and copies of all relevant IEPs;
- Ensure that IEPs are reviewed with the parents and child if appropriate, at least three times a year, making sure that the Head teacher, SENDCo and relevant colleagues are aware of children's needs;
- Set high expectations for every pupil and aim to teach them the full curriculum, whatever their prior attainment, ensuring that other adults working in their class are supporting pupils in their class, as directed;
- Use appropriate assessment to set targets which are deliberately ambitious;
- Plan lessons to address potential areas of difficulty and to ensure that there are no barriers to every pupil achieving;
- Attend appropriate INSET and courses.

Under the guidance and supervision of the class teacher and SENDCo, Learning Support Assistants are responsible for:

- Carry out activities and learning programmes planned by the class teacher and the SENDCo;
- Keep records of this work as requested;
- Support children in class or by withdrawing individuals and small groups;
- Attend INSET and courses where appropriate;
- Be fully aware of the school's SEND policy.

10. Admissions

We welcome children with SEND into our school and are committed to working in partnership with parents to ensure a smooth start to their child's time with us. The Local Authority's SEN department will inform us when parents/carers of a child with an EHCP want a place at our school. All other requests for places for children with SEN, who do not have an EHCP, are no different to those for other children and are outlined in the School's Admissions Policy.

Alma Primary will meet its duties under the Schools Admissions Code of Practice by:

- Adopting fair practices and arrangements in accordance with the Schools Admission Code for the admission of children without an EHC plan, including ensuring admission for any child that has named the school in their EHC plan.
- Considering applications from parents of children with identified SEN but who do not have an EHC plan.
- Not refusing admission for a child who has SEN but does not have an EHC plan because the school does not feel able to cater for those needs.
- Not refusing admission for a child on the grounds that they do not have an EHC plan.
- Not discriminating against or disadvantaging applicants with SEND.

Alma Primary SEND Policy

- Ensuring policies relating to school uniform and trips do not discourage parents of pupils with SEND from applying for a place.
- Ensuring the school's oversubscription arrangements will not disadvantage children with SEND.

11. Local Offer, joint commissioning, planning, and delivery

Alma Primary will cooperate generally with the local authority and local partners in the development and review of the local offer.

Alma Primary will collaborate with the local authority in the exercise of its duty to work together with health and social care providers by:

- Identifying improved system outcomes in consultation with pupils and their parents;
- Draw on the wide range of local data-sets about the likely education needs of children and young people with SEND to forecast future need;
- Plan, deliver and monitor services against how well outcomes have been met.

12. SEN and Disability Tribunal

Alma Primary will meet any request to attend a SEND Tribunal and explain any departure from its duties and obligations under the SEN Code of Practice.

13. Training and support for staff

We understand the importance of training in special needs, inclusion and disability equality and that teaching and non-teaching staff will need regular training on aspects of special needs and inclusion in order to inform practice.

If there are children with significant mobility difficulties who need help with personal care, they are likely to have substantial support from a dedicated teaching assistant and this person will have completed manual-handling training;

All staff will discuss their individual training needs at annual Performance Management review meetings.

14. Working in partnership with parents and carers

Parents and carers play a key role in enabling children with SEND to achieve their potential. The school recognises that parents will hold key information and have vital knowledge and experience to contribute to the shared view of a child's needs and the best ways of supporting them.

We will work hard to ensure good communication with parents and carers of children with SEND to facilitate a close partnership and ensure that their views and needs are taken into consideration and that they can also make a positive contribution to the education of their children through:

- A systematic effort to support parents/carers through periods of transition, by clearly explaining all the procedures, paying visits to new settings (internal or external), having interviews with

Alma Primary SEND Policy

newcomers and making sure that all needs are communicated effectively so that they can be followed up successfully.

- Good communication including telephone, email and face to face conversations, and annual review meetings. We will meet parents/carers to discuss any questions and and/or concerns that they may have about their children's education in our school.
- Involve parents at the earliest stages of identification and assessment of SEND.

15. Working with External Services

On occasion, the needs of individual children may be beyond the range of expertise within the school, and on these occasions the school will work with outside agencies, examples listed below, to support the education of children with SEND:

- Parent Support Advisor.
- Education Welfare Officer providing attendance support.
- Health Service, particularly through the school nurse, Occupational and Physio therapists.
- Social Services.
- Parents' Line Plus.
- Children's Centre including Family Outreach work.
- High Incidence Support Team.
- Educational Psychologists.
- Speech and Language Therapists
- Specialist Teams for visual and hearing impairment, physical disability and autistic spectrum condition.

Links with other schools, regarding the support of children with SEND, will be advantageous.

Alma Primary will support the smooth transition of all children to the next school year, or from primary to secondary education. In addition to this, we will have the following measures for children with SEND:

- The SENDCo will ensure that all records are passed to the next class teacher;
- At the hand-over meeting in the summer term the current class teacher will share detailed information with the new class teacher;
- We will put in place additional strategies for individual children e.g. extra visits to the new classroom, photo books, buddying with older child/sibling/learning mentor support;
- Use of social stories to assist within-school transitions such as a change of teacher or teaching assistant during the year (especially for children who work one-to-one with adults).

Children from Alma Primary move on to a variety of secondary schools. Additional support for individual children will be provided as necessary and additional visits to their new school will be arranged for any vulnerable children.

Alma Primary SEND Policy

When children with EHC Plans transfer to secondary school or to a special school, the SENDCo and Year 6 teacher will invite the SENDCo of those schools to attend Alma and meet with the children. We will pass on all the SEND records pertinent to individual children.

For children with special educational needs who do not have EHC Plans, the Year 6 teacher/ SENDCo will meet with the Year 7 transition teacher of the new school to discuss the child's particular needs with this teacher. We will pass on all the records to the receiving school.

16. Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions and/or Disabilities

Alma Primary recognises that pupils at school with medical conditions should be properly supported so that they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education:

- Some children with medical conditions may be disabled and where this is the case the school will comply with its duties under the Equality Act 2010.
- Some may also have special educational needs (SEN) and may have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan which brings together health and social care needs.
- Alma Primary is under a duty not to treat disabled pupils less-favourably than their non-disabled peers, and to make 'reasonable adjustments' to ensure that they are not put at a substantial disadvantage in comparison to pupils who are not disabled. This involves planning strategically (via the accessibility plan) to increase access to school premises and the curriculum (including participation in after-school clubs, leisure and cultural activities and school visits).
- Arrangements in place to support pupils at Alma Primary with medical conditions are described in the Alma Primary's policy for supporting pupils with medical conditions, available from the school office.

17. Preventing Bullying

Children with Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities, may be vulnerable and need to be protected from the harmful effects of bullying. Alma Primary's policy on preventing bullying specifies the steps that are in place to mitigate the risk of bullying of vulnerable learners at our school.

18. Monitoring and Evaluating SEND provision

The following strategies and outcomes will be used to monitor pupil progress and the effectiveness of provision at Alma Primary:

- Ability of teachers to identify pupils who need additional support.
- Nature of intervention programmes provided to support SEND pupils.
- Monitoring of work which shows clear differentiation in planning, and which also reflects high but realistic expectations of pupils' progress.
- Use of regular IEP reviews to monitor targets and their effectiveness.
- Formal assessments carried out by the SENDCo to obtain reading and spelling ages.
- Reports and assessments from outside agencies.

Alma Primary SEND Policy

- Feedback on intervention programmes and progress from teachers and other school staff.
- Teacher assessments and monitoring of IEP targets by teachers and Learning Support Assistants.
- The views of parents taken from responses to questionnaires, letters to staff and comments made during meetings.
- SEN Governor liaising with the SENDCo to have an understanding of how the policy is being implemented.

The Governors of Alma Primary will review this policy annually and evaluate the effectiveness of:

- Systems for identifying and assessing children with SEND.
- The provision made to meet children's SEND.
- The record-keeping for children with SEND.
- The allocation of resources for children with SEND.

19. Safeguarding

The school recognises that evidence shows children with SEND are at a greater risk of abuse and maltreatment and will ensure that staff are aware that pupils with SEND:

- Have the potential to be disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying.
- May face additional risks online, e.g. from online bullying, grooming and radicalisation.
- Are at greater risk of abuse, including, but not limited to, peer-on-peer abuse, neglect and sexual violence or harassment.

The school recognises that there are additional barriers to recognising abuse and neglect in this group of children. These barriers include, though are not limited to,

- Assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the children's condition without further exploration.
- These children being more prone to peer group isolation or bullying (including prejudice-based bullying) than other children.
- The potential for children with SEND or certain medical conditions being disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying, without outwardly showing any signs.
- Communication barriers and difficulties in managing or reporting these challenges.
- A different cognitive understanding and being unable to understand the difference between fact or fiction in online content.

The headteacher and governing board will ensure that the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy reflects the fact that these additional barriers can exist when identifying abuse. When using reasonable force in response to risks presented by incidents involving children with SEND, staff will have due regard for the procedures outlined in the school's Physical Intervention Policy.

Alma Primary SEND Policy

Care will be taken by all staff, particularly those who work closely with children with SEND, to notice any changes behaviour or mood, or any injuries, and these indicators will be investigated by the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) in collaboration with the SENDCo.

School staff will be particularly alert to the potential need for early help for pupils with SEND and additional needs.

The governing board and headteacher will ensure that pupils with SEND are taught about how to keep themselves and others safe including online. The school will ensure that teaching of safeguarding is tailored to the specific needs and vulnerabilities of pupils with SEND.

Any reports of abuse involving pupils with SEND will involve close liaison between the DSL and the SENDCo.

20. Complaints

Parents/carers of pupils with SEN and disabilities can approach school staff to discuss the progress of their child and to seek information and advice. They will also be given the space to express concerns and complaints about any issue around their child's provision, in line with the school's complaints procedures. The school will respond to these concerns by arranging meetings with relevant stakeholders and possibly external professionals to clarify matters. Any complaints regarding the support for children with SEND will be dealt with in line with the school's complaints policy.

21. Data and record keeping

Alma Primary will:

- Include details of SEND, outcomes, teaching strategies and the involvement of specialists, as part of its standard system to monitor the progress, behaviour and development of all pupils;
- Maintain an accurate and up-to-date register of the provision made for pupils with SEND;
- Record details or additional or different SEND provision on a provision map.

22. Confidentiality

Alma Primary will not disclose any EHC plan without the consent of the pupil's parents with the exception of disclosure:

- To the SEN and Disability Tribunal when parents appeals and to the Secretary of State if a complaint is made under the Education Act 1996;
- On the order of any court for the purpose of any criminal proceedings;
- For the purposes of investigations of maladministration under the Local Government Act 1974;
- To enable any authority to perform duties arising from the Disabled Persons (Services, Consultation and Representation) Act 1986 or from the Children Act relating to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children;
- To Ofsted inspection teams as part of their inspections of schools and local authorities;
- To any person in connection with the pupil's application for disabled students allowance in advance of taking up a place in higher education;

Alma Primary SEND Policy

- To the Headteacher of an institution at which a pupil from Alma is intending to start education.

23. Monitoring and review

The policy is normally reviewed on an annual basis by the SENDCo and Headteacher in conjunction with the Governing Board; any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all members of staff, parents of children with SEND, and relevant stakeholders.

Alma Primary SEND Policy

Policy Development Notes (New – change – for discussion)

Change	Responsible	Date
Inclusion of safeguarding links, changes to admissions and commitment re LGBTQ+	Marc Shoffren	Jan 22
Updated Inclusion Leader name	Marc Shoffren	Sept 22
Changes in terminology, inclusion of disabilities throughout and consistent use of 'SENDCo/Inclusion Leader'	Elena Ttofis	June 23
SENDCo/Inclusion Leader changed to SENDCo; class teachers changed to teachers	Clare Stephens	February 24

Meeting discussion points and resolution

Page/ref	Concern/issue	Resolution	Action inc responsibility