St Stephen’s C.E. Primary School

Special educational needs (SEN) information report

2025-2026

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Dear parents and carers,

The aim of this information report is to explain how we implement our SEND policy. In other words, we want to show you how SEND support works in our school.

If you want to know more about our arrangements for SEND, please read our SEND policy found on our website.

Note: If there are any terms we've used in this information report that you're unsure of, you can look them up in the Glossary at the end of the report.

1. What types of SEN does the school provide for?

At St. Stephen's we respect the rights of all children and aim to develop the whole child and embrace their individual needs. The school is committed to providing a broad, relevant and balanced curriculum for all children, appropriate to their needs and abilities.

Our school provides for pupils with the following needs:

AREA OF NEED	CONDITION
Communication and interaction	Autism spectrum disorder
	Speech and language difficulties
Cognition and learning	Specific learning difficulties, including dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia
	Moderate learning difficulties
	Severe learning difficulties
Social, emotional and mental health	Attention deficit hyperactive disorder (ADHD)
	Attention deficit disorder (ADD)
Sensory and/or physical	Hearing impairments
	Visual impairment
	Multi-sensory impairment
	Physical impairment

2. Which staff will support my child, and what training have they had?

Our special educational needs co-ordinator, or SENCO

Our SENCO is Kirsty McCrindle

She has 18 years of experience in the role, she has worked as a qualified teacher in schools for the last 23 years.

She is working towards achieving the National Award in Special Educational Needs Co-ordination.

She has received training in a significant number of areas of SEN including memory, sensory needs, Social communication needs, Dyslexia, Attachment, Speech and Language training and Trauma informed approaches.

She is allocated two days a week to manage SEN provision.

Assistant SENCO/ Pastoral Lead

Our assistant SENCO/ Pastoral lead is Sarah Costin

She has 16 years experience in this role and have also worked as a SENCO.

She has recently undergone trauma informed training.

Class teachers

All of our teachers receive in-house SEN training, and are supported by the SENCO to meet the needs of pupils who have SEN.

Staff receive regular training in supporting children with differing needs such as speech and language and Thrive approach. Staff training is constantly improved and refreshed via onsite and online training.

Teaching assistants (TAs)

We have a team of TAs, including 2 higher-level teaching assistants (HLTAs) who are trained to deliver SEN provision.

We have 12 teaching assistants who are trained to deliver a range of interventions such as Wellcomm, Speech and language, maths recovery alongside many others.

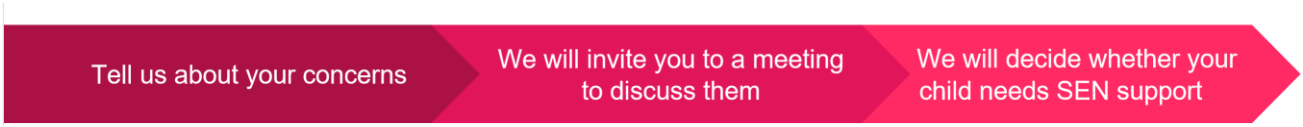
In the last academic year, TAs have been trained in Trauma informed approaches, speech and language, adaptive practices and supporting behavioural needs alongside other training.

External agencies and experts

Sometimes we need extra help to offer our pupils the support that they need. Whenever necessary we will work with external support services to meet the needs of our pupils with SEN and to support their families. These include:

- Speech and language therapists
- Educational psychologists
- Occupational therapists
- GPs or paediatricians
- School nurses
- Child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS)
- Education welfare officers
- Social services and other LA-provided support services
- Voluntary sector organisations

3. What should I do if I think my child has SEN?



If you think your child might have SEN, the first person you should tell is your child's teacher.

You can either discuss concerns during

We will meet with you to discuss your concerns and try to get a better understanding of what your child's strengths and difficulties

If we decide that your child needs SEN support, we will formally notify you in writing and your child will be added to

parents' evenings or alternatively arrange an after- school appointment.

They will pass the message on to our SENCO, Kirsty McCrindle who will be in touch to discuss your concerns.

You can also contact the SENCO directly.

Email: kirsty.mccrindle@st-stephens.tameside.sch.uk

are.

Together we will decide what outcomes to seek for your child and agree on next steps.

We will make a note of what's been discussed and add this to your child's record. You will also be given a copy of this.

the school's SEND register.

4. How will the school know if my child needs SEN support?

All our class teachers are aware of SEN and are on the lookout for any pupils who aren't making the expected level of progress in their schoolwork or socially. This might include speech and language, reading, writing, number work or motor skills.

If the teacher notices that a pupil is falling behind, they try to find out if the pupil has any gaps in their learning. If they can find a gap, they will give the pupil extra support to try to fill it. Pupils who don't have SEN usually make progress quickly once the gap in their learning has been filled.

If the pupil is still struggling to make the expected progress, the teacher will talk to the SENCO, and will contact you to discuss the possibility that your child has SEN.

The SENCO will observe the pupil in the classroom or in the playground to see what their strengths and difficulties are. They will have discussions with your child's teacher/s, to see if there have been any issues with, or changes in, their progress, attainment or behaviour. They will also compare your child's progress and development with their peers and available national data.

The SENCO will ask for your opinion and speak to your child to get their input as well. They may also, where appropriate, ask for the opinion of external experts such as a speech and language therapist, an educational psychologist, or a paediatrician.

Based on all of this information, the SENCO will decide whether your child needs SEN support. You will be told the outcome of the decision in writing.

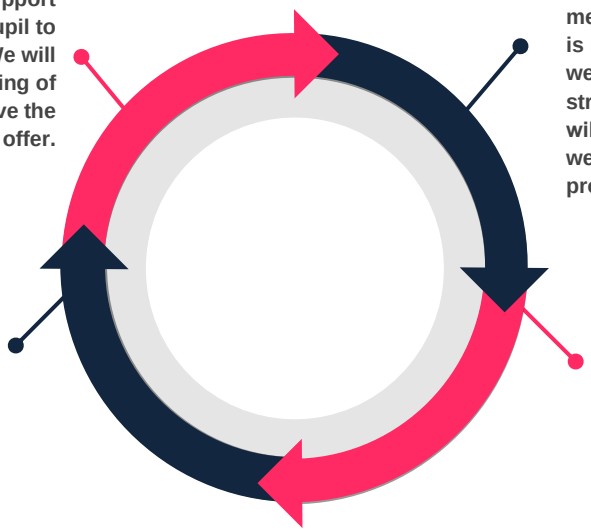
If your child does need SEN support, their name will be added to the school's SEN register, and the SENCO will work with you to create a SEN support plan for them.

5. How will the school measure my child's progress?

The school will use a variety of methods to monitor your child's progress including careful monitoring of attainment and progress, observations of behavioural, emotional and social development, existing SEN targets and assessments provided by outside agencies.

At St Stephen's we will follow the 'graduated approach' to meeting your child's SEN needs.

The graduated approach is a 4-part cycle of **assess, plan, do, review**.



Review

We will assess how well the support we put in place helped the pupil to meet the outcomes we set. We will use our improved understanding of your child's needs to improve the support we offer.

Assess

Teachers constantly monitor progress and meet with senior leaders termly. If your child is not making the expected level of progress, we will make an assessment to find out what strengths and difficulties your child has. We will ask for you and your child's input, as well as getting help from external professionals where necessary.

Do

We will put our plan into practice. The class teacher, with the support of the SENCO, will be responsible for working with your child on a daily basis, and making sure the support we put in place is having the impact we intended.

Plan

In discussion with you and your child, we will decide what outcomes we are hoping to achieve. We will make a plan of the support we will offer your child to help them meet those outcomes. We will make a record of this (this is called an ILP) and share it with you and all relevant school staff.

As a part of the planning stage of the graduated approach, we will set outcomes that we want to see your child achieve.

Whenever we run an intervention with your child, we will assess them before the intervention begins. This is known as a 'baseline assessment'. We do this so we can see how much impact the intervention has on your child's progress.

We will track your child's progress towards the outcomes we set over time and improve our offer as we learn what your child responds to best.

This process will be continual. If the review shows a pupil has made progress, they may no longer need the additional provision made through SEN support. For others, the cycle will continue and the school's targets, strategies and provisions will be revisited and refined each term.

6. How will I be involved in decisions made about my child's education?

We will provide termly reports on your child's progress.

Your child's class teacher/s will meet you at a minimum 3 times a year, to:

- Set clear outcomes for your child's progress
- Review progress towards those outcomes
- Discuss the support we will put in place to help your child make that progress
- Identify what we will do, what we will ask you to do, and what we will ask your child to do

The SENCO may also attend these meetings to provide extra support.

We know that you're the expert when it comes to your child's needs and aspirations. So we want to make sure you have a full understanding of how we're trying to meet your child's needs, so that you can provide insight into what you think would work best for your child.

We also want to hear from you as much as possible so that we can build a better picture of how the SEN support we are providing is impacting your child outside of school.

If your child's needs or aspirations change at any time, please let us know right away so we can keep our provision as relevant as possible.

After any discussion we will make a record of any outcomes, actions and support that have been agreed. This record will be shared with all relevant staff, and you will be given a copy.

If you have concerns that arise between these meetings, please contact your child's class teacher directly or make an appointment via the school office.

7. How will my child be involved in decisions made about their education?

The level of involvement will depend on your child's age, and level of competence. We recognise that no 2 children are the same, so we will decide on a case-by-case basis, with your input.

We may seek your child's views by asking them to:

- Attend meetings to discuss their progress and outcomes
- Prepare a written statement or drawing, etc.
- Discuss their views with a member of staff who can act as a representative during the meeting

8. How will the school adapt its teaching for my child?

Subject leaders take the differing needs of the children at St Stephen's when devising whole school subject planning. During weekly and daily planning and preparation, teachers will adapt plans to suit the individual needs of their pupils in their class, ensuring they are able to access work at the appropriate level.

Further adaptions can be found in the accessibility plan here

must include information about your accessibility plan in this report and confirm that it covers increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the curriculum.

Your child's teacher is responsible and accountable for the progress and development of all the pupils in their class.

High-quality teaching is our first step in responding to your child's needs. We will make sure that your child has access to a broad and balanced curriculum in every year they are at our school.

We will differentiate (or adapt) how we teach to suit the way the pupil works best. There is no '1 size fits all' approach to adapting the curriculum, we work on a case-by case basis to make sure the adaptations we make are meaningful to your child.

These adaptations include:

- Differentiating our curriculum to make sure all pupils are able to access it, for example, by grouping, 1-to-1 work, adapting the teaching style or content of the lesson, etc.
- Differentiating our teaching, for example, giving longer processing times, pre-teaching of key vocabulary, reading instructions aloud, etc.
- Adapting our resources and staffing
- Using recommended aids, such as laptops, coloured overlays, visual timetables, larger font, etc.
- Teaching assistants will support pupils on a 1-to-1 basis when we feel is most effective
- Teaching assistants will support pupils in small groups when we feel it will be more appropriate

We may also provide the following interventions:

AREA OF NEED	CONDITION	HOW WE SUPPORT THESE PUPILS
Communication and interaction	Autism spectrum disorder	Visual timetables Social stories Social skills/ Communication group Attention autism
	Speech and language difficulties	Individual speech and language plans Speech and language programmes Wellcomm Attention Autism Sensory stories Inference groups
Cognition and learning	Specific learning difficulties, including dyslexia, dyspraxia and dyscalculia	Writing slope Dyslexia friendly reading/ spelling schemes 5 minute box Precision teaching
	Moderate learning difficulties	Precision teaching
	Severe learning difficulties	EP devised planning
Social, emotional and mental health	ADHD, ADD	Quiet workstation Concentration aids Movement breaks Sensory circuits
	Adverse childhood experiences and/or mental health issues	Nurture groups Thrive intervention Pastoral support
Sensory and/or physical	Hearing impairment	Access to specialist services
	Visual impairment	Limiting classroom displays Visual aids

	Multi-sensory impairment	Access to sensory equipment Sensory circuits
	Physical impairment	OT programmes Motor skills united

These interventions are part of our contribution to Tameside's local offer.(see link below)

9. How will the school evaluate whether the support in place is helping my child?

At St Stephen's we will evaluate the effectiveness of provision for your child by:

- Reviewing their progress towards their goals each term
- Reviewing the impact of interventions after 6 weeks
- Using tracking systems
- Monitoring by the SENCO
- Using provision maps to measure progress
- Holding an annual review (if they have an education, health and care (EHC) plan)

10. How will the school resources be secured for my child?

We will aim to provide the most appropriate level of support and resources from those within school. It may be that your child's needs mean we need to secure:

- Extra equipment or facilities
- More teaching assistant hours
- Further training for our staff
- External specialist expertise

If that's the case, we will consult with external agencies to get recommendations on what will best help your child access their learning.

The school will cover up to £6,000 of any necessary costs. If funding is needed beyond this, we will seek it from our local authority.

11. How will the school make sure my child is included in activities alongside pupils who don't have SEND?

At St Stephen's we aim to be fully inclusive in whatever we do. We will aim to plan and adapt for each child accordingly.

All of our extra-curricular activities and school visits are available to all our pupils.

All pupils are encouraged to go on our school trips, including our residential trip to Robin Wood.

All pupils are encouraged to take part in sports day/ school plays/ church visits etc.

No pupil is ever excluded from taking part in these activities because of their SEN or disability and we will make whatever reasonable adjustments are needed to make sure that they can be included.

12. How does the school make sure the admissions process is fair for pupils with SEN or a disability?

At St Stephen's we will consider our ability to meet the needs of the child on an individual basis and will endeavour find solutions to meet those needs.

- We will consult with parents, current settings and any external agencies involved with prospective pupils
- We will consult with the LA to ensure that prospective pupils whose EHC plan names the school will be allocated a space

13. How does the school support pupils with disabilities?

The school attempts to make appropriate adaptions to the school environment wherever possible. Professionals will work together to devise the best possible support for pupils at St Stephens.

- The pupils' disabilities are always considered. They are encouraged and fully included in the life of the school. Staff ensure fair and equal access to learning and leisure activities
- Ramps, accessible bathroom and a 'stair chair' enable children to access the physical environment effectively
- St Stephen's accessibility plan can be found here. It covers how we will:
    - Increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the curriculum
    - Improve the physical environment to enable disabled pupils to take better advantage of the education, benefits, facilities and services you provide
    - Improve the availability of accessible information to disabled pupils

14. How will the school support my child's mental health and emotional and social development?

The school use a trauma informed approach to supporting all children and there are practitioners specifically trained to deliver intervention in this area. Social and emotional development is tracked alongside learning to ensure we are meeting pupils' social and emotional needs. The inclusion team and teachers will support children by putting appropriate support in place. 'Pupil voice' will be gained for pupils on the SEN register, their personal contributions are recorded as part of a 'one page profile' detailing thoughts, feelings and personal preferences of each child.

We provide support for pupils to progress in their emotional and social development in the following ways:

- Pupils with SEN are encouraged to be part of the school council
- Pupils with SEN are also encouraged to be part of sports clubs to promote teamwork/building friendships
- We provide extra pastoral support for listening to the views of pupils with SEN within social skills groups
- We run a nurture groups/individual nurture time for pupils who need extra support with social or emotional development using a trauma informed approach

We have a 'zero tolerance' approach to bullying.

- Please find the ways we prevent bullying in the school here

15. What support will be available for my child as they transition between classes or settings or in preparing for adulthood?

Additional transitional time will be provided as children move classes and through key stages. Teachers and teaching assistants will be included in the process and new class teachers may attend review meetings when the child has an EHCP.

Between years

To help pupils with SEND be prepared for a new school year we:

- Ask both the current teacher and the next year's teacher to attend final meeting of the year when the pupil's SEN is discussed
- Scheduled lessons and opportunities to get to know children with the incoming teacher towards the end of the summer term

Between schools

In the Early Years we meet with Nursery settings and arrange visits and transitional time.

When your child is moving on from our school, we will pass relevant information about your child to the new setting, often meeting with new SENDCOs . You may inform us of what information you want us to share with the new setting.

Between Phases

All records and information is passed on during transitions to high school additional meetings or transition may be planned.

Sometimes the SENCO of the secondary school will join a meeting with our SENCO. They will discuss the needs of all the children who are receiving SEN support.

Pupils will be prepared for the transition by:

- Practising with a secondary school timetable
- Learning how to get organised independently
- Plugging any gaps in knowledge

16. What support is in place for looked-after and previously looked-after children with SEN?

Amanda Doan is the designated lead for looked-after children and previously looked-after children. She works closely with Kirsty McCrindle, our SENCO and Sarah Costin, pastoral lead to make sure that all teachers understand how a looked-after or previously looked-after pupil's circumstances and their SEN might interact, and what the implications are for teaching and learning.

Children who are looked-after or previously looked-after will be supported much in the same way as any other child who has SEND. However, looked-after pupils will also have a personal education plan (PEP). We will make sure that the PEP and any SEN support plans or EHC plans are consistent and complement one another.

17. What should I do if I have a complaint about my child's SEN support?

Complaints about SEN provision in our school should be made to the class teacher or SENCO in the first instance. They will then be referred to the school's complaints policy.

If you are not satisfied with the school's response, you can escalate the complaint. In some circumstances, this right also applies to the pupil themselves.

Find the school complaints policy here

To see a full explanation of suitable avenues for complaint, see pages 246 and 247 of the SEN Code of Practice.

If you feel that our school discriminated against your child because of their SEND, you have the right to make a discrimination claim to the first-tier SEND tribunal. To find out how to make such a claim, you should visit: https://www.gov.uk/complain-about-school/disability-discrimination

You can make a claim about alleged discrimination regarding:

- Admission
- Exclusion
- Provision of education and associated services
- Making reasonable adjustments, including the provision of auxiliary aids and services

Before going to a SEND tribunal, you can go through processes called disagreement resolution or mediation, where you try to resolve your disagreement before it reaches the tribunal.

Tameside contact details can be found here

18. What support is available for me and my family?

If you have questions about SEND, or are struggling to cope, please get in touch to let us know. We want to support you, your child and your family.

To see what support is available to you locally, have a look at Tameside's local offer. Tameside publishes information about the local offer on their website: Tameside SEND Local Offer

Our local special educational needs and disabilities information advice and support services (SENDIASS) organisations are: SENDIASS (tameside.gov.uk)

Local charities that offer information and support to families of children with SEND can be found here:

SEND Support Organisations (tameside.gov.uk)

National charities that offer information and support to families of children with SEND are:

- IPSEA
- SEND family support
- NSPCC
- Family Action
- Special Needs Jungle

19. Glossary

- **Access arrangements** – special arrangements to allow pupils with SEND to access assessments or exams
- **Annual review** – an annual meeting to review the provision in a pupil's EHC plan
- **Area of need** – the 4 areas of need describe different types of needs a pupil with SEND can have. The 4 areas are communication and interaction; cognition and learning; physical and/or sensory; and social, emotional and mental health needs.
- **CAMHS** – child and adolescent mental health services

- **Differentiation** – When teachers adapt how they teach in response to a pupil's needs
- **EHC needs assessment** – the needs assessment is the first step on the way to securing an EHC plan. The local authority will do an assessment to decide whether a child needs an EHC plan.
- **EHC plan** – an education, health and care plan is a legally-binding document that sets out a child's needs and the provision that will be put in place to meet their needs.
- **First-tier tribunal/SEND tribunal** – a court where you can appeal against the local authority's decisions about EHC needs assessments or plans and against discrimination by a school or local authority due to SEND
- **Graduated approach** – an approach to providing SEN support in which the school provides support in successive cycles of assessing the pupil's needs, planning the provision, implementing the plan, and reviewing the impact of the action on the pupil
- **Intervention** – a short-term, targeted approach to teaching a pupil with a specific outcome in mind
- **Local offer** – information provided by the local authority which explains what services and support are on offer for pupils with SEN in the local area
- **Outcome** – target for improvement for pupils with SEND. These targets don't necessarily have to be related to academic attainment
- **Reasonable adjustments** – changes that the school must make to remove or reduce any disadvantages caused by a child's disability
- **SENCO** – the special educational needs co-ordinator
- **SEN** – special educational needs
- **SEND** – special educational needs and disabilities
- **SEND Code of Practice** – the statutory guidance that schools must follow to support children with SEND
- **SEN information report** – a report that schools must publish on their website, that explains how the school supports pupils with SEN
- **SEN support** – special educational provision which meets the needs of pupils with SEN
- **Transition** – when a pupil moves between years, phases, schools or institutions or life stages