

# SEN Information Report

*St. Mary's Catholic  
Primary School*



ST MARY'S  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## Purpose

The aim of this information report is to explain how we implement our SEND policy. 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 the NPCAT SEND policy. You can find it on our website in the Policies section.

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?

Our school provides for pupils within four categories of needs:

<b>Area of need</b>	<b>Includes:</b>
<b>Communication and interaction</b>	Autism spectrum disorder (ASD)
	Speech and language difficulties
<b>Cognition and learning</b>	Specific learning difficulties, including dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia
	Moderate learning difficulties
	Severe learning difficulties
<b>Social, emotional and mental health</b>	Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)
	Attention deficit disorder (ADD)
<b>Sensory and/or physical</b>	Hearing and/or visual impairments
	Multi-sensory impairment
	Physical impairment

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

### **SENCO**

Our special educational needs co-ordinator, or SENCO is: Mrs K Mendum  
She has the National Award in Special Educational Needs Coordination.  
Our SENDCo has over 8 years' experience in this role.  
The SENDCo is also the Assistant Headteacher and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead and has sufficient time allocated a week to manage the SEND Provision within school.

### **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.

Training has included:

- We have three teachers who are trained in Understanding Autism Level 2.
- We have one teacher trained in Understanding Behaviour that Challenges Level 2.
- We have a full-time Parent Support Advisor with a safeguarding responsibility.
- We have one member of staff trained to be an ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant).
- We have one teacher who is currently undertaking the NPQ SEND Award.
- We have an in-house experienced counsellor to offer 1:1 Child Psychotherapeutic Counselling sessions to support children's emotional wellbeing.

### **Teaching assistants (TAs)**

We have a team of 7 TAs, including 2 higher-level teaching assistants (HLTAs) who are trained to deliver SEN provision.

Training has included:

- Four teaching assistants who are trained in Understanding Autism Level 2.
- Two teaching assistants who are trained in Understanding Behaviour that Challenges Level 2.
- One member of staff who is trained to facilitate Rainbows Bereavement support.
- Staff in Early Years have completed the Communication Friendly Setting training and we are a Communication Friendly setting.
- Staff have completed Thrive Training, we have one teacher who is a licensed Thrive Practitioner and we are a THRIVE Setting.
- Staff have completed in-depth Attachment and Trauma awareness training and we are an Attachment and Trauma Aware school.
- As a school, we have achieved the SEND Inclusion Award (SENDIA).

## **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:

- Specialist Teaching Service
- ASD Specialist Teachers
- Educational Psychologists
- Speech and Language Therapists
- Occupational Therapists, both Local Authority ran and Private Sensory Occupational Therapist Specialists.
- Physiotherapists
- Local Authority SEND Team.
- Hearing Impaired Service & Teachers of the Deaf
- Visually Impaired Service
- GPs or paediatricians
- School nurses
- CAMHS (Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service)
- School Nursing Service
- Mental Health Support Team
- THRIVE
- The Junction (offering therapeutic support/Young carers support)
- The Link (offering therapeutic support)
- Headstart
- The Bungalow Partnership - Play Therapy
- EVA (support for families who are affected by domestic violence)
- Attendance and Welfare service
- The Virtual School
- Social services and other LA-provided support services
- Voluntary sector organisations

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

Tell us about your concerns	We will invite you to a meeting to discuss them.	We will decide whether your child needs to be placed on the SEN register.
<p>If you think your child might have SEN, the first person you should tell is your child's teacher.</p> <p>Explain how parents/carers can get in touch with school here.</p> <p>They will pass the message on to our SENCO, Mrs. K Mendum, who will be in touch to discuss your concerns.</p> <p>You can also contact the SENCO directly via the school office or on the email below:</p> <p><a href="mailto:enquiries@stmarys.npcat.org.uk">enquiries@stmarys.npcat.org.uk</a></p>	<p>We will meet with you to discuss your concerns and try to get a better understanding of what your child's strengths and difficulties are.</p> <p>Together we will decide what outcomes to seek for your child and agree on next steps.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>If we decide that your child needs SEN support, we will formally notify you in writing and your child will be added to the school's SEND register.</p>

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

At St. Mary's Catholic Primary School we believe that every teacher is a teacher of SEND. 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.

If the teacher notices that a pupil is falling behind, they try to find out if the pupil has any gaps in their learning. Pupils who don't have SEN usually make progress quickly once the gap in their learning has been filled. We will use the NPCAT High Quality Teaching toolkit to inform any possible strategies.

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 work with the class teacher 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?

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**.

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.

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

We will provide annual reports on your child's progress. Your child's class teacher will give you the opportunity to meet three 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.

## 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 every child is unique, 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 outcome
- 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?

Your child's teacher/s is/are 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. St. Mary's Catholic Primary School supports children through the i-Thrive model, a needs based approach to allow children to get the right help, at the right time, at the right level (see Appendix 1).

We will use adaptive teaching 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:

- Explicit instruction
- Cognitive and meta cognitive strategies
- Scaffolding
- Flexible Grouping
- Use of technology.
- Use of additional adult support when required.

We may also provide the following interventions:

Early Years:

- Quality Interactions and Sustained Shared Thinking within Early Years.
- Take Ten
- 1-5 Questioning Rule
- Phonics Interventions

KS1 and beyond:

- Write from the Start
- Letter Joins handwriting
- Responsive/Focused PSHE Interventions
- ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) Intervention
- Rainbows Support (Bereavement and Loss)
- GEMS - Mental Health and Wellbeing Support
- Child Psychotherapeutic Counselling Service
- In-house Mental Health Support Team supporting a range of mental health needs.

KS2 Only:

- Rapid Catch Up Phonics
- Responsive/Focused PSHE Interventions
- ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) Intervention
- Rainbows Support (Bereavement and Loss)
- GEMS - Mental Health and Wellbeing Support
- Child Psychotherapeutic Counselling Service
- In-house Mental Health Support Team -supporting a range of mental health needs.

These are in addition to the high, quality first teaching each child in school receives.

In addition to the interventions listed above, St. Mary's Catholic Primary School also offers:

- Small, nurture group provision giving children the opportunity to access The Treehouse Programme, a bespoke, therapeutic and curriculum offer to support children's individual needs
- Bespoke, individualised timetables and curriculum offers.
- A sensory room to support children's sensory seeking needs and de-escalation.

Please see attached Appendix 2 for detailed information regarding this additional provision.

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

We will evaluate the effectiveness of provision for your child by:

- Reviewing their progress towards their goals each term
- Reviewing the impact of interventions
- Using pupil questionnaires
- Monitoring by the SENCO
- 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?

The school budget that is received from the Local Authority includes money for supporting pupils with SEN. The Headteacher and School Business Manager then decide on the budget for SEN in consultation with school governors and based on the needs of pupils in the school. The school may receive an additional amount of 'top-up' high needs funding for pupils with higher level needs.

We use our SEN funding in the most appropriate way to support your child. This support may include some individual or small group support, for example, small intervention groups. Funding may also be used to pay for support from outside services or to purchase specialist teaching equipment and resources as needed, which may include additional staff. There are regular meetings to monitor the impact of interventions and SEN provision.

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

All of our extra-curricular activities and school visits are available to all our pupils, including our before and after-school clubs. 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?

Our admission arrangements for pupils with SEND are the same as for every child in school. However, if special provision needs to be made (for example due to a physical or medical need) then a meeting with parents (and specialist services if appropriate) will be sought in the first instance to ensure that school is fully prepared to meet the child's needs. If a child with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) is transferring to us, then we will seek advice from other professionals and consult with the Local Authority SEND Team to ensure our school can fully meet their needs.

## 13. How does the school support pupils with disabilities?

We make the following adaptations to ensure all pupils' needs are met:

- Adapting our resources and staffing.
- Using recommended aids, such as visual timetables, communication visuals, coloured overlays, writing slopes, larger fonts, coloured resources and exercise books, sensory resources and technology.
- Providing scaffolds to give children longer processing times, pre-teaching of key vocabulary, reading instructions aloud, etc.
- Bespoke, individualised timetables and curriculum offers.
- Implementing recommendations from professionals, for example, Occupational Therapy or Physiotherapy for any children that require physical development support.
- Delivering sensory diets where advised by a Sensory Occupational Therapist Specialist.

For additional information in relation to the accessibility within St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, our Accessibility Plan can be found on the school website.

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

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

- Pupils with SEND are encouraged to be part of the school council.
- Pupils with SEND are also encouraged to be part of the Rights Respecting club to promote teamwork/building friendships etc.
- Pupils with SEND are encouraged to take responsibility roles for different groups across the school, for example, house groups, Eco Warriors, Stewards of Creation and more.
- Children in EYFS have PSHE embedded within their provision.
- Children from Y1 – Y6 take part in weekly PSHE and mindfulness sessions to support their Social, Emotional and Mental Health.
- Reception - Y6 take part in weekly My Happy Mind sessions to empower children to thrive and support their emotional literacy and mental health and wellbeing.
- We have one member of staff trained to be an ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant).
- Access to GEMS support - an in-house mental health and wellbeing service to support a range of needs.
- We have an in-house experienced counsellor to offer 1:1 focused sessions to support children's emotional wellbeing.
- We are working with a local Mental Health Support Team - Inside Out.
- St. Mary's is a Thrive Setting.
- St. Mary's is a Headstart School.
- St. Mary's is an Attachment and Trauma Aware School.

We have a zero tolerance approach to bullying and outline this in our Child on Child Abuse Policy which can be found on our school website.

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

### **Between years**

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

- We will share information between key stages and when the child moves from one year group to the next, ensuring best practice is shared to ensure the child is supported within the classroom setting.
- Ask both the current teacher and the next year's teacher to attend the a meeting of the year when the pupil's SEN is discussed.
- Schedule lessons with the incoming teacher towards the end of the summer term.

### **Between schools**

When your child is moving on from our school, we will ask you and your child what information you want us to share with the new setting.

### **Between phases**

The SENCO of the secondary school will come into our school for a meeting with our SENCO. They will discuss the needs of all the children who are receiving SEN support.

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

Mr N Bennett will work with Mrs K Mendum, our SENCO, 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?**

If you feel unhappy with the provision your child is getting or have concerns, we encourage you to come into school and speak to our SENCO, or our Head Teacher. A detailed copy of our complaints procedure is highlighted in our complaints policy found on our website. We would like to assure parents that we only want the best for our children with SEND and so if you do have any concerns/complaints please do come and speak to us ASAP.

Contact details:



01642 455309



[enquiries@stmarys.npcat.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@stmarys.npcat.org.uk)

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>

## **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 Redcar and Cleveland's local offer.  
<http://www.peoplesinfont.net.org.uk/kb5/redcar/directory/localoffer.page>

SENDIASS South Tees is a service for parents and carers of young people aged 0-25 with special educational needs and /or disabilities (SEND) as well as young people themselves. It is impartial, which means it is not biased and gives confidential information, advice and support y.  
<https://barnardosendiass.org.uk/south-tees-sendiass/>

Useful websites include:

[Special Needs Jungle](#)

[Family Action](#)

## Glossary of terms

<b>Access arrangements</b>	Special arrangements to allow pupils with SEND to access assessments or exams.
<b>Annual review</b>	An annual meeting to review the provision in a pupil's EHC plan
<b>Area of need</b>	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.
<b>CAMHS</b>	Child and adolescent mental health services.
<b>Differentiation</b>	When teachers adapt how they teach in response to a pupil's needs.
<b>EHC needs assessment</b>	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.
<b>EHC Plan</b>	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.
<b>First-tier tribunal/SEND tribunal</b>	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
<b>Graduated approach</b>	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.
<b>Intervention</b>	A short-term, targeted approach to teaching a pupil with a specific outcome in mind.
<b>Outcome</b>	Target for improvement for pupils with SEND. These targets don't necessarily have to be related to academic attainment.
<b>Local offer</b>	Information provided by the local authority which explains what services and support are on offer for pupils with SEN in the local area.
<b>Reasonable adjustments</b>	Changes that the school must make to remove or reduce any disadvantages caused by a child's disability.
<b>SENCO</b>	The special educational needs co-ordinator.

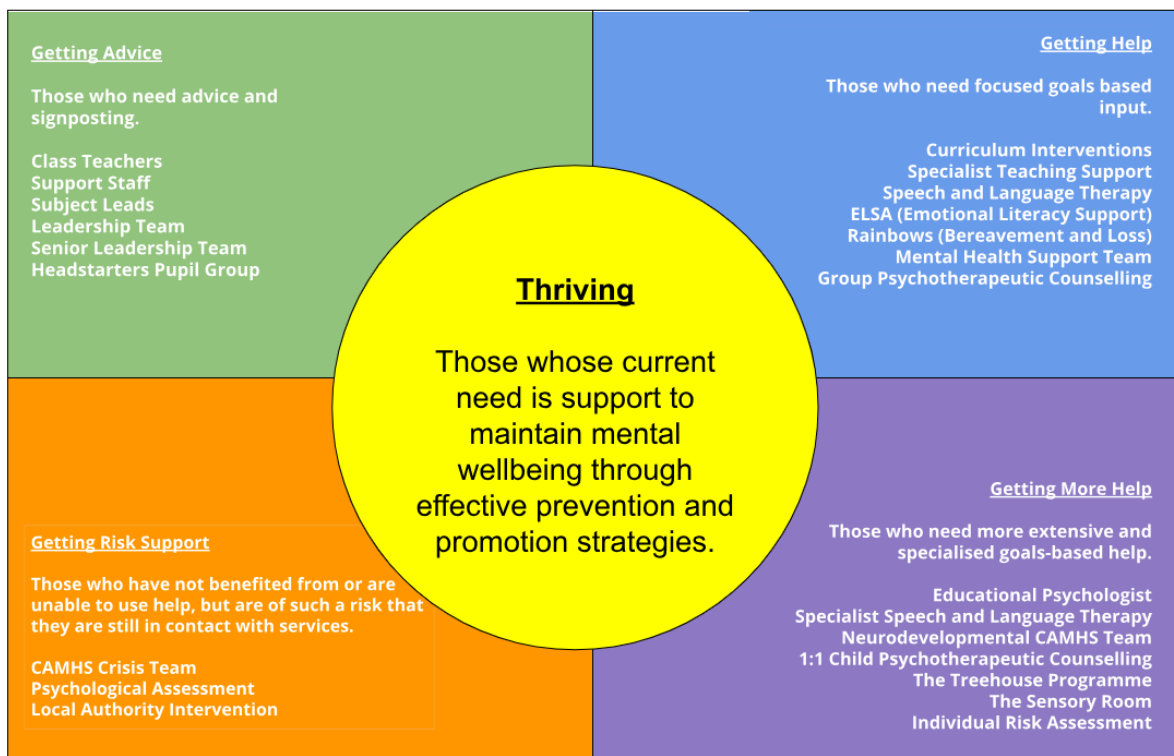
<b>SEN(D)</b>	Special educational needs (and disabilities).
<b>SEND Code of Practice</b>	The statutory guidance that schools must follow to support children with SEND.
<b>SEN support</b>	Special educational provision which meets the needs of pupils with SEN.
<b>Transition</b>	When a pupil moves between years, phases, schools or institutions or life stages.

## Appendix 1 - i-Thrive

### **i-Thrive**

i-Thrive is a needs based approach which allows children to get the right help, at the right time, at the right level.

In school, we have identified the following support on offer to enable us to communicate with multi-agency professionals the correct level of support needed for our children.



## Appendix 2 - The Treehouse Programme

### The Treehouse Programme

#### **What is 'The Treehouse Programme':**

At St. Mary's we ensure that **all children are taught in love, they know love and they show love.**

At St Mary's we are proud to offer a dynamic, inclusive and nurturing learning environment, an education which inspires academic excellence and confidence for life. Our 'i-Thrive' approach, to the quality of education we provide, ensures all children reach their full potential. Our children know that like Mary, they too are special; they are chosen; they are loved. We are inspired by Mary's bravery to say yes to God's call, and just like Mary, when we say yes to new opportunities our lives can change forever.

Some pupils across school access a range of additional activities which enhance their curriculum depending upon their individual needs.

The Treehouse Programme is a provision within school that provides an enhanced, safe and stimulating environment, together with a bespoke curriculum offer which is appropriate to the needs of each individual child, and delivered by experienced members of staff.

At some point in a child's education journey, they might need "help" with something. It might be that they need help with their learning and ensure good progress or it may be their wellbeing and behaviour. The Treehouse is designed to allow children to be supported within a smaller, nurturing provision with a higher adult to child ratio, offering a thematic approach to teaching the curriculum which is underpinned by PSHE.

There are 2 Curriculum Pathways within the St. Mary's:

There are 2 Curriculum Pathways within the St. Mary's:

- St. Mary's Hybrid Curriculum Pathway
- St. Mary's Therapeutic Curriculum Pathway

Children who have access to the Treehouse will follow one of the curriculum pathways, however there may be pupils within the class group who need individual timetables and will demonstrate a hybrid model of the two curriculums and provision.

**The Provision:**



In addition to this, St. Mary's has its own sensory space to support children with additional sensory needs.

