



St Christopher's

Catholic Primary School

Parent and Carers' Guide to the SEND Code of Practice

What is the Code of Practice?

The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Code of Practice (CoP) is a Statutory document. This document outlines provision for children and young people (from birth to 25 years of age) for children and young people with SEND. Local Authorities, schools, colleges, social services and health agencies follow this code when making provision for young people with SEND.

Detailed information about SEND provision at St. Christopher's Catholic Primary School can be found in both our 'School's Information Report' and 'SEN Policy'. These can be found on our website at: www.st-christophers.staffs.sch.uk

What are the main changes to the Code of Practice?

A number of main changes were made from the previous CoP. The most significant changes affecting schools were that:

- The CoP would now include children and young people from birth - 25 years of age.
- For SEND pupils, their needs would be met primarily within the classroom and class teachers would be responsible for their provision.
- There would no longer be a distinction made for pupils who received support from external professional agencies, meaning that the terms 'School Action' and 'School Action Plus' would no longer exist. Pupils on the SEND register would come under the umbrella term of 'SEN Support', whether or not they receive input from an external agency.

- Parents could have some input concerning finances for individual children awarded by the Local Authority. This would be in consultation with the Local Authority.
- The former 'Statement' of need would be replaced by an 'Education, Health and Care Plan' (EHCP).
- Four main areas of need were identified.
- The cycle of 'A Graduated Response' was introduced.



What are the four areas of need?

The CoP identifies four areas of need. These are:

Communication and Interaction

Children may have a difficulty with 'receptive language' (language they hear) or 'expressive language' (language they use). They may find it difficult to make certain speech sounds and to put these sounds together when they speak. Children with other needs, such as Autism, can find social communication and interaction challenging.

Cognition and Learning

Children may have difficulties learning across several areas or in a specific area. Specific learning difficulties can include Dyslexia, Dyspraxia and Dyscalculia

Sensory and Physical Needs

This area includes children with physical disabilities as well as those with sensory needs, such as visual or hearing impairment.

Social, Emotional and Mental Health

The term BESD (Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties) is no longer included in the Code of Practice. It is now recognised in the new CoP that children and young people displaying apparent behavioural difficulties are actually communicating underlying issues with their social, emotional or mental health. Such issues may include: attachment disorder, depression, anxiety, anger management, problems with social skills and friendships.

What is the Graduated Response?

The Graduated response is a cycle of intervention or support outlined in the CoP. This cycle involves:



- 1) Assess
- 2) Plan
- 3) Do
- 4) Review

- Teachers **assess** each pupil's progress and development in comparison to their peers in order to identify whether they may have a Special Educational Need or would benefit from some extra support or intervention in class.
- Once identified, a **plan** is developed to meet the pupil's needs. The planned interventions are outlined on the pupil's/school provision map.
- **(Do)** The interventions and support are put in place over a set period of time
- The impact of the support and interventions is reviewed. The outcome of the **Review** will guide the Plan for the next cycle of intervention and support. It may also indicate that support from outside agencies will be required.

We hope that this gives parents and carers a clear guide to the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Code of Practice. As always, if you have any further queries please do contact the school where a member of staff will be happy to help you.

Telephone: 01902 434310

E-mail: office@st-christophers@staffs.sch.uk

The Staffordshire Send Family Partnership is also able to offer independent and confidential advice and support for families of children and young people with Send.

Helpline number: 01785 356921