

NOVA PRIMARY ACADEMY SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN) INFORMATION REPORT

All Peterborough Keys Academies Trust (PKAT) schools are committed to ensuring good or better outcomes and experiences for children and young people with SEN and disabilities.

At Nova Primary Academy, we are here to help parents and carers understand how they can support their child if they have a special educational need and /or a disability. Staff are passionate about ensuring that the learning environment is inclusive and meets the needs of all our pupils.

Careful consideration is given to the curriculum to maintain high aspirations and expectations for all learners whilst ensuring that the right support and scaffolding is in place so that success is achieved by all.

Staff at Nova Primary Academy focus on preparing pupils for new learning and do so through a range of strategies including formative assessment, pre-teaching and using our knowledge of each child when planning interventions to give opportunities for overlearning. Targeted interventions are chosen carefully to maximise impact on pupil progress.

Positive partnerships with external agencies are used effectively to ensure that the graduated response is followed consistently for all pupils and advice given from professionals is acted upon.

The school aims for an inclusive learning environment, with a strong, experienced leadership team who provide staff with regular CPD opportunities so that they can ensure that the curriculum on offer is appropriate and responsive to the needs of all learners.

Staff are approachable and care for the children and the community that we serve. Families are at the heart of SEND provision and the voice of each parent is highly valued and sought regularly throughout the year as we value them as partners in their child's learning.

KEY SCHOOL STAFF

The first point of contact for any concern should be your child's class teacher.

All staff listed below can be contacted via the school office:

| NAME | ROLE |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| Vicky Wells | SENDCO |
| Alma McGonigle | Headteacher |
| Sally Hudson | Deputy Headteacher |
| Megan Taylor | Pastoral leader |
| TBC | Family Partnership Worker |
| Megan Taylor | Safeguarding Lead |
| Jude Macdonald | Trust Director of SEND |

WHAT KINDS OF SEND ARE PROVIDED FOR?

| TYPE OF NEED | EXAMPLES |
|---|---|
| Communication and Interaction | Speech, language, and communication difficulties. Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC). Low levels of receptive language. Difficulty in understanding and processing language. Individual communication systems, for example PECs. |
| Cognition and Learning | A specific learning difficulty, for example dyslexia or dyspraxia. Mild but persistent difficulties in aspects of literacy, numeracy, or motor coordination. Moderate learning difficulties. Low levels of working memory. Difficulty processing information, making decisions and problem solving. |
| Social, Emotional, Mental Health (SEMH) | ADHD. Low levels of self esteem which may lead to behaviour that challenges. Anxiety and depression. Behavioural difficulties. M from CAMH. |
| Sensory and / or physical needs | Visual or hearing impairments. Physical disabilities. Epilepsy. |

HOW ARE SEN/D NEEDS IDENTIFIED AND ASSESSED?

Careful baselines are carried out annually. The information from this baseline is considered alongside evidence from previous settings, key stages, and years. Class teachers regularly assess students in a wide variety of ways, and are best placed to identify those whose progress:

- Is significantly lower than that of their peers starting from a similar baseline.
- Fails to match or better the individual's previous rates of progress.
- Fails to close the attainment gap with peers despite intervention.
- Widens the attainment gap.

This may include progress in areas other than attainment, for example, social needs.

Slower progress and low attainment will not automatically mean a pupil is recorded as having SEN. When deciding whether special educational provision is required, the school will start with the desired outcomes, including the expected progress and attainment, and the views and the wishes of the pupil and their parents / carers. School staff will use this to determine the support that is needed and whether it can be provided by adapting our core offer, or whether something different or additional is needed.

At Nova Primary Academy, children are identified as having Special Educational Needs and/or a disability in a wide range of ways, including:

- Liaison with the previous setting.
- Transition arrangements, such as home visits.

- Children performing below age related expectations.
- Concerns raised by parents/carers.
- Concerns raised by staff.
- Liaison with external agencies.
- Referrals from The Health Visitor / School Nurse.
- Health diagnosis through a paediatrician.
- Their academic performance.
- Clinical Psychologist diagnosis.
- Educational Psychologist diagnostic assessment.
- Speech and Language assessment.
- In school assessment (for example SFA, RWI, Pixl, HFW lists)
- Screening, for example for dyslexia.
- Accessing Peterborough Hubs for support and guidance.
- Through the Assess, Plan, Do, Review cycle.
- Pastoral concerns.
- Data analysis by the school Raising Standards Lead.

HOW ARE PUPILS / STUDENTS AND PARENTS / CARERS CONSULTED AND INVOLVED?

Parent / carer partnership is encouraged through regular consultations, annual reports, SEND reviews and informal discussions.

The children and parents / carers are at the heart of decision making, ensuring high quality individual education at the school is carefully planned around the specific needs of the child. As far as possible, the school will accommodate parental availability when planning meetings.

Phone and email contact are maintained which ensures that difficulties and anxieties can be resolved swiftly. As soon as there is a concern about a child's needs, an early discussion with the pupil and their parents / carers will be held to identify whether they need special educational provision.

These conversations will make sure that:

- Everyone develops a good understanding of the pupil's areas of strength and difficulty.
- Parent / carer concerns are considered.
- Everyone understands the agreed outcomes sought for the child.
- Everyone is clear on the next steps required.

Notes of these early discussions will be added to the pupil's record and given to their parents / carers. The school will formally notify parents when it is decided that a pupil will receive SEN support.

Parents / carers will always be consulted to obtain permission for referrals to outside agencies for example; speech and language therapy, educational psychology. They will be invited to attend any professionals or review meeting where appropriate that will help support their child.

HOW THE SCHOOL ASSESSES AND REVIEWS PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES

The school uses a wide range of monitoring systems to assess the impact of all strategies. These include:

- Provision Maps, reviewed termly.

- A tracking system to monitor children's progress against national/age expected levels and targets.
- Regular PiXL assessments.
- Regular reading assessments.
- Termly Individual Plan reviews for children who required specialist intervention and children on EHC plans.
- Pupil Profiles.
- End of year report.
- Pupil Progress meetings.
- Raising standards meetings.
- Phonics assessments.
- Evidence from assess, Plan, Do, Review cycles.
- Attendance, behaviour and suspension data.
- Liaison with providers of alternative provision.

Children may move off the SEND register when they have made sufficient progress.

SUPPORT FOR TRANSITION

The school liaises closely with staff when receiving and transferring children to different schools, ensuring all the relevant paperwork is passed on and all needs are discussed and understood. A transition programme runs during the summer term annually, which allows pupils to experience the new school environment and meet new staff.

The school has an open evening and parents / carers are warmly invited to attend the evening and any subsequent open days, to support families in making decisions about their child's schooling.

For children with SEND, it may be appropriate to encourage and facilitate further visits to the school assist with transition process. The school and/or parents may also feel the need to arrange additional transition meetings between the schools to alleviate concerns.

Transition between year groups is carefully planned for to ensure a smooth process for the children. Class teachers meet on a number of occasions to hand over relevant information about the children in their class and in turn receive information from teachers for the class coming up. Additional SEN information is also transferred via the SENCO and relevant reports and advice are shared. Pupils visit their new classrooms and teachers during the end of summer term, helping them to familiarise with the new space.

When a child moves from primary to secondary school, any open assessments to external professionals, or on-going Assess, Plan, Do, Review cycles

Secondary students are encouraged to access college open evenings and supported with applications to their new settings. Where a child has additional needs, these will be communicated to the receiving educational provider.

As with all children, relevant safeguarding files will be passed to the child's new school at the point of transition.

HOW PUPILS / STUDENTS WITH SEN/D ARE TAUGHT

In line with SEN Code of Practice Jan 2015, Nova Primary Academy believes that “all teachers are teachers of pupils with special educational needs”. As such, the school adopts “a graduated approach” that places quality first teaching at the heart of all lessons.

Staff receive a range of specialist training to empower them in delivering good or better lessons which meet the needs of pupils with special needs, and the SENCO holds an advisory role across all staff in promoting good to outstanding teaching strategies which meet the individual needs of pupils.

Quality First Teaching and inclusive classroom practice is a high priority at the school. Teachers are supported by the senior leadership team and members of the SEN team to ensure the learning environment is accessible to pupils with special educational needs. If a pupil is struggling in a particular area of the curriculum, the teacher and pupil are supported to explore ways the environment, resources and delivery can be adapted to enable progress.

ADAPTION OF CURRICULUM AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT: INCLUSION FOR SEN/D

Teachers plan work pitched at an appropriate level so that all children can access the curriculum according to their specific needs. This might mean that in a lesson there would be different levels of work set for the class, however if needed then work is individually differentiated.

In addition, staff work hard to:

- Differentiate the curriculum to ensure all pupils can access it, for example, by grouping, 1:1 work and teaching style.
- Adapting resources, for example large print for children with visual impairment, a microphone and hearing loop for those with a hearing need.
- Deploying staffing effectively to intervene where a child needs additional support, or as determined by the provisions in their EHCP.
- Adapting resources to include key words to support students, visuals to aid presentation and symbols to support reading.
- Using recommended aids, such as laptops, coloured overlays, visual timetables, larger font and writing slopes.
- Differentiating teaching, for example, giving longer processing times, pre-teaching of key vocabulary, and reading instructions aloud.
- Where pupils access a nurture provision they will be entitled to teaching from a qualified teacher, a broad and balanced curriculum offer and access as much mainstream as possible, on a bespoke basis.

The school has an Accessibility Policy and Plan which is reviewed regularly as the needs of the school community change.

STAFF EXPERTISE

Staff are well trained and there is a variety of expertise available at the school. The following interventions can be delivered, as required by a child’s EHCP, an Assess, Plan, Do, Review cycle, and following discussion with parents / carers:

- National Professional Qualification for SEN Co-ordination.
- 5 Minute Box for reading.

- Maths Box.
- Speech and Language intervention.
- BSL small group teaching.
- Referral for Early Help Assessment.
- Mental Health First Aid.
- SALT programmes.
- Attention Autism.
- Intensive Interaction.
- Sensory Integration activities.
- Intimate care.
- In-class support.
- Maths, phonics and reading interventions.
- Spelling interventions.
- Medical support.
- Use of hoists and transfer equipment.
- Issuing medication, for example for diabetes.
- Social skills.
- Social stories.
- PIXL intervention programmes.
- Intervention programmes from subject areas.
- Break-out rooms for low stimulus interventions.
- Webster-Stratton parenting course.
- Colourful Semantics.
- Read Write Inc Tutoring.
- Pre/post teaching.
- Precision Teaching for reading/spelling.
- Word Wasp and Hornet spelling programs.
- Targeted lunchtime club for children who need support with less structured times.

EVALUATING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

The school evaluates the effectiveness of provision for pupils with SEN by:

- Reviewing pupil progress towards their goals a minimum of three times a year.
- Monitoring by the SENCO.
- Assess, Plan, Do, Review cycle outcomes.
- Provision mapping.
- Pupil surveys.
- Parent / carer surveys.
- Progress reports and parent / carer evenings.
- Reviews / meetings with the Trust Director of SEND.
- Internal and external audits.

SUPPORT FOR EMOTIONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

At Nova Primary Academy, the Trust Behaviour Policy and School Behaviour Handbook aims to support pupils with understanding and displaying pro-social behaviour. Relationships between adults and children are crucial in creating a secure learning environment where children feel safe and supported. The following strategies support this aspect of the school's work:

- Positive tone / body language
- A therapeutic approach is always adopted whereby the pro-social feelings of everyone within the dynamic is prioritised.
- Attachment Awareness and Trauma Informed practices.
- Behaviour STEPs approach.
- School core values:
- Pastoral support.
- Phase meetings and leaders.
- Behaviour reflections.
- Referral to the Local Authority's behaviour panel.
- Careful but appropriate use of alternative provision.
- Reward system.
- Care plans for pupils who need intimate care or medical support.
- Personal / pastoral support plans.
- Playground buddies.
- Class worry boxes.
- School trips.
- Consideration of home language and cultural heritage.
- Access to a school counsellor.
- Support through training and referrals to the Mental Health Support team.

OUTSIDE AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

Nova Primary Academy can access a range of additional services from outside agencies. These may be considered when the usual adaptations are not leading to progress or where a child may need an application for an EHCP. These services include:

- Those provided by the Local Authority:
 - Autism Advisory Team
 - Pupil Partnership Officer
 - Pupil Referral Service
 - Early Help Team
 - Children's Social Care
 - Behaviour panel
- Those provided by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Health Trust:
 - Community Paediatricians
 - ADHD Team
 - Neurodevelopment Service
 - Physiotherapy Service
 - Paediatric Occupational Therapy Team
 - Speech and Language
 - School Nurse
 - CAMHS (child and adult mental health)
- Specialist teachers, for example Teacher of the Deaf or Teacher of the Blind.
- Local Hub Centres of Expertise.
- The support of the Area SENCo.
- Alternative provision, such as Families First, local colleges and Alternative Curriculum Education (ACE).

ARRANGEMENTS FOR HANDLING COMPLAINTS

The first point of contact would be your child's class teacher to share your concerns. Parents can also arrange to meet our SENCO or Headteacher.

The Trust SEND Policy and Trust Complaints Policy can also be viewed on the PKAT website: <https://www.pkat.co.uk/page/?title=PKAT+Policies&pid=20>