

Shevington Vale Primary School

Inclusion Policy

Document Purpose

The mission statement at Shevington Vale affirms our commitment to valuing the individuality of all of our children. We give all of our children every opportunity to achieve the highest of standards. We do this by respecting and taking account of pupils' varied life experiences and needs. We offer a broad and balanced curriculum and have high expectations for all children. The achievements, attitudes and well-being of all our children matter. This policy helps to ensure that this school promotes the individuality of all our children, irrespective of ethnicity, attainment, age, disability, gender or background and that pupils have a common curriculum experience.

This school believes that every pupil has an entitlement to develop to their full potential. Educational experiences are provided which develop pupils' achievements and recognise their individuality. Diversity is valued as a rich resource, which supports the learning of all. In this school, inclusion recognises a child's right to a broad, balanced, relevant and challenging curriculum, which is appropriate to their individual abilities, talents and personal qualities.

The policy should be read in conjunction with other school policies.

The policy has been developed in response to national and local authority initiatives which support inclusive learning.

- The Education Act 1996
- Inclusive schooling of children with Special Educational Needs
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001
- Special Educational Needs Code of Practice 2001
- Wigan LEA's policy for inclusion

The policy was prepared after staff discussion and was accepted by the Governing Body. The responsible person for the implementation of the policy is the Executive Headteacher.

The Executive Headteacher, Assistant Headteacher, SENCO and the Governing Body, will review the policy regularly.

We actively seek to remove the barriers to learning and participation that can hinder or exclude individual pupils, or groups of pupils. This means that equality of opportunity must be a reality for our children. We make this a reality through the attention we pay to the different groups of children within our school. This policy applies to those pupils who:

- Have learning, physical, communication, sensory and/or medical needs
- Have or experience behavioral, emotional and social needs

But it also applies to those pupils who for example

- Reflect social and cultural diversity
- Have attendance difficulties
- Experience significant ill health
- Have relatives to care for
- Use English as an additional language
- Have recently in this country or may be refugees or asylum seekers
- Have a mobile life style as travelers
- Are looked after children
- Live in poverty or who may be homeless
- Are gifted or talented
- Bully or who are victims of bullying
- Are bereaved
- Are traumatised

Aims

The school aims to:

- Help pupils develop their personalities, skills and abilities;
- Provide appropriate teaching which makes learning challenging, enjoyable and successful;
- Provide equality of educational opportunity;
- Engender a culture of tolerance and acceptance of all, mutual respect where all are valued.

Objectives

The school will:

- Ensure implementation of government and LEA inclusion recommendations;
- Ensure the school's inclusion policy is implemented consistently by all staff;
- Ensure any discrimination or prejudice is eradicated;
- Identify barriers to learning and participation and provide appropriately to meet a diversity of needs;
- Ensure all pupils have access to an appropriate differentiated curriculum;
- Recognise value and celebrate pupils' achievements, however small;
- Work in partnership with parents/carers in supporting their child's education;
- Guide and support all staff, governors and parents in inclusion issues.

Defining Inclusion

Inclusion is an ongoing process that celebrates diversity and involves the identification and minimising of barriers to learning and participation that may be experienced by any pupils irrespective of age, ability, gender, ethnicity, language and social background, and the maximising of resources to reduce these barriers.

At Shevington Vale Primary School we support Wigan's definition of inclusion as:

“A process which recognises and values diversity, promotes a shared vision for community cohesion and supports the participation of individuals in the life of the community.”

Co-ordinating Inclusion

The Executive Headteacher, Assistant Headteacher and SENCO are the inclusion co-ordinators. Their role is to:

- Work positively with all members of the school community to promote inclusion;
- Induct new staff in the school's commitment to inclusion;
- Monitor and assess inclusive provision by helping the school to establish indicators to judge its effectiveness in relation to inclusion;

- Monitor the inclusion policy and report to the governing body on its effectiveness;
- Report on the efficient and effective use of resources for pupils at school action, school action plus and those with statements;
- Work with key staff to identify barriers to learning and provide staff with appropriate strategies;
- Share inclusive expertise with, and support the professional development of classroom teachers and teaching assistants;
- Provide appropriate resources;
- Work with key staff such as the Assessment Co-ordinator, subject leaders, to monitor pupil progress;
- Analyse with staff the recording of incidents which may relate to bullying or discrimination of pupils on the grounds of SEN:
- Liaise with parents;
- Co-ordinate cross-phase/cross-school transition;
- Co-ordinate external specialist provision.

The inclusion co-ordinator is responsible for keeping the governors regularly informed about inclusive provision in the school.

Inclusive Provision

The school offers a continuum of provision to meet a diversity of pupils' needs. With all classes having mixed ability, the school and individual teachers have the flexibility to set smaller ability groups, within their classes, for specific aspects of the curriculum.

Additional in-class support is available in all KS1 classes and at set times in KS2; this is provided by teaching assistants (TAs). This additional support is targeted at individual pupils and small groups of pupils.

Teaching Assistants support pupils with emotional and behavioural difficulties, as well as working with gifted and talented pupils.

Access to learning is enhanced through technology including the use of individual computers, software etc.

Out-of-class provision is available to pupils, where appropriate, who require specialist personalised learning programmes.

A range of extra-curricular activities, are available during lunch time, school time and after school during selected times of the year.

Promoting an Inclusive Curriculum

The National Curriculum and/or Early Years Foundation are our starting point for planning a curriculum that meets the specific needs of individuals and groups of children. We meet these needs through:

- Setting suitable learning challenges;
- Responding to children's diverse learning needs;
- Overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of pupils;
- Providing other curricular opportunities outside the National Curriculum/Early Years Foundation Stage to meet the needs of individuals or groups of children.

When setting suitable learning challenges, we aim to give every pupil the opportunity to experience success in learning and to achieve as high a standard as possible. The National Curriculum/Early Years Foundation Stage set out what most pupils should be taught at each key stage but our teaching reflects the knowledge, skills and understanding in ways to suit our pupils' abilities. This may mean choosing knowledge, skills and understanding from earlier or later key stages so that individual pupils can make progress and show what they can achieve. Where it is appropriate for pupils to make extensive use of content from an earlier key stage, there may not be time to teach all aspects of the age-related programmes of study. A similarly flexible approach is used to take account of any gaps in pupils' learning resulting from missed or interrupted schooling (for example, which may be experienced by travellers, refugees, for those in care, or those with long-term medical conditions, including pupils with neurological problems, such as head injuries, and those with degenerative conditions).

For pupils whose attainments fall significantly below the expected levels at a particular key stage, a much greater degree of differentiation is necessary. In these circumstances, teachers provide a context, in planning learning, which is appropriate to the age and requirements of their pupils.

When planning, we set high expectations and provide opportunities for all pupils to achieve. This is based on a system of tracking pupil achievement in order to ensure that pupils do not underachieve, or fail to reach their potential. We respect and value pupils that bring to school different experiences, interests and strengths, which will influence the way in which they learn. Our teachers plan their approaches to teaching and learning so that all pupils can take part in lessons fully and effectively.

To ensure that we meet the full range of pupils' needs, our teachers are aware of the requirements of the equal opportunities legislation that covers race, gender and disability. We take specific action to respond to pupils' diverse needs by:

- Creating effective learning environments
- Securing their motivation and concentration
- Providing equality of opportunity through teaching approaches
- Using appropriate assessment approaches
- Setting targets for learning

Our teachers take specific action to provide access to learning for pupils with special educational needs by:

- Providing for pupils who need help with communication, language and literacy
- Planning, where necessary, to develop pupils' understanding through the use of all available senses and experiences
- Planning for pupils' full participating in learning and in physical and practical activities
- Helping pupils to manage their behaviour, in order to, take part in learning effectively and safely
- Helping individuals to manage their emotions, in order to take part in learning

External Support

The school, through its service level agreement, buys in additional external specialist advice and support from the Wigan Education Support Services (WESS).

Specialist teachers from these services provide regular intervention in the form of personalised learning, direct teaching in-class support, counselling, and assessment of pupils' needs and progress.

The school also engages in collaborative partnerships with special and mainstream schools, local colleges and training providers to promote inclusive networked learning communities.

The school has access to a link adviser, Inclusion adviser, educational psychologist and child support worker.

Resource Allocation

The school allocates funds from its budget to resourcing educational inclusion. Subject co-ordinators have the opportunity to request additional resource allocation as part of the annual school improvement planning process which takes account of the needs of all learners. The Executive Headteacher and appropriate body within the school, (e.g. budget and finance sub-committee, senior management team etc), in conjunction with the Inclusion Co-ordinator and/or SENCO, review each request, and with the governing body, approve the necessary curriculum priority spending, that supports moving inclusive practice forward.

The SENCO organises and plans the amount of additional in-class and external specialist support required for pupils at School Action Plus and with a statement. The pupils at School Action are covered from within the school's SIS budget, and receive in-class support from teaching assistants.

The SENCO reports annually on the efficient and effective use of resources for pupils at school action, school action plus and those with statements of SEN.

Assessment Procedures

We believe that all children and young people deserve to have their achievements and progression recognised and the school's curriculum reflects the different levels of attainment likely to be achieved.

The school embraces using a consistent nationally recognised assessment system, which relates to the Early Years Foundation Stage, the P Scales for pupils with learning difficulties, and the National Curriculum levels of attainment, the Primary National Strategy. Assessment for learning, as outlined in the national guidance from the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), guides us in the process of seeking and interpreting evidence for use by learners and teachers to decide where the pupils are in their learning, where they need to go and how best to get there.

All teachers monitor, review and analyse pupil progress in accordance with the school's assessment policy. In order to ensure accurate assessments are made, teachers moderate and standardise samples of pupils' work and achievements across the curriculum. Underachievement is identified as early as possible and pupils are set individual challenging targets which address the area of underachievement. Pupil progress is monitored and reviewed termly.

The SENCO, tracks pupil progress systematically and reports to the headteacher in order to:

- Check the progress individual pupils make against their targets;
- Verify that barrier-free learning is taking place across the curriculum, particularly where there have been changes in staff or schemes of work, or low attendance rates;

- Provide a cross-check with teachers and teaching assistants regarding the pupils who are underachieving in relation to their prior attainment;
- Monitor the progress of specific pupil cohorts, e.g. summer-born children, free school meals pupils, EAL, different ethnic groups, boys and girls, BESD, SEN, gifted and talented, traveller children, looked after children;
- Identify particular strengths and weaknesses of particular year groups, in a key stage or subject area;
- Collect, monitor and analyse fixed-term and permanent exclusions and take appropriate action to prevent re-occurrence;
- Check the progress of pupils at School Action, School Action Plus and those with a statement to inform the SEN register and to ensure that the pupils' needs are being met;
- Show 'value added' in view of the additional resources put in place to support inclusion; to compare the accuracy of teacher assessment with external test results at the end of a key stage (i.e. the difference between actual and expected pupil performance);
- Compare the school's performance with other similar schools in the LEA via the school Information Profile, with their statistical neighbours and with national performance data.

In addition to the culture of support and praise, which underpins the school ethos, the reward systems within school, such as team points, marbles, certificates of achievement and top table nominations all contribute to raising pupil self-esteem and motivation.

Disapplication and Modification

The school can, where necessary, modify or disapply the National Curriculum and its assessment arrangements. The school makes every effort to meet the learning needs of all its children, without recourse to disapplication or modification.

However, in exceptional circumstances we may decide that modification or disapplication is the correct procedure to follow. We would only do this after detailed consultation with parents and the Local Education Authority and taking account of the most recent guidance. The school's governor with responsibility for special educational needs would also be closely involved in this process. We would ensure that every effort had been made to provide the necessary support from within the school's resources before considering such action.

Professional Development

The Executive Headteacher and Assistant Headteacher oversees the professional development of all staff.

The SENCO liaises with the Senior Leadership Team to review staff skills related to SEN, behaviour and pupil emotional well-being and to ensure that there is a good balance of training to enhance the skills of all staff. Staff are encouraged to observe good inclusive practice within the school and also in other schools.

Working with Parents

The knowledge, views and first-hand experience parents have regarding their children is valued for the contribution it makes to their child's education. Parents are seen as partners in the educational process. All parents are welcome to contact the SENCO or Inclusion Co-ordinator if they have any concerns about inclusive educational provision. Parents are also strongly encouraged to keep regular contact with the school regarding their child's progress. The home-school agreement outlines how parents can support their child's learning at home.

Evaluating The Inclusion Policy

The inclusion policy is reviewed regularly and the policy evaluation focuses on:

- Establishing how far the aims and objectives of the policy have been met.
- How effective the inclusion provision has been in relation to the resources allocated;
- The attainment, achievements and progress of different groups of pupils; including reference to Raise on Line, School Information Profile and value-added data;
- Listening and responding to the views of pupils;
- Comments from the parent questionnaire;
- The school's own self evaluation of the inclusion of pupils with SEN and behaviour difficulties using the LEA School Self Evaluation Toolkit for SEN and Behaviour.

In the light of these findings, our policy is revised and amended accordingly. We believe that effective schools are also inclusive schools and to this end, our evaluation focuses upon a shared vision and commitment to inclusion which ensures:

- A stable and experienced teaching team working in collaboration with teaching assistants;
- Strong support from parents, carers and governors;
- Careful and systematic use of resources;

- Thorough monitoring, evaluation and assessment of progress;
- A calm and consistent school climate that promotes good, positive social relationships;
- High expectations of all pupils;
- That the views of the pupils are valued, and the pupils' voices are listened to;
- Clear and consistent whole-school policies, with the emphasis on early intervention;
- Recognition and respect for diversity;
- Appropriate, effective communication systems;
- Regular inter-school collaboration; and
- The school is a community resource for learning and leisure activities for all.

Governor Approval 2010/2011

This policy was approved by the governing body on 26th November 2009

Review Date 2011/2012

Signed [Signature] . Chair of Governors