



SEND Policy	
Date of last review	November 2024
Next review due date	November 2025
Approved by Governors and Head Teacher	

'Empowering children through sustainable, diverse, arts-enriched education'

SEND POLICY

Compliance:

This policy complies with the statutory requirement laid out in the Code of Practice 0-25 (Last updated May 2015). This policy was written by the SENDCo in collaboration with the SEND Governor, SLT and the wider school community. The SENDCo is Laura Le Fevre. The SEND Governor is Abby Slough. You can contact Mrs Le Fevre through the school office, by telephoning 01582 863 516, by emailing the school at schooloffice@thornhillprimary.co.uk or by approaching her face to face.

Rationale:

At Thornhill Primary School we believe it is every child's right to achieve their full potential. We aim to raise aspirations of, and expectations for all pupils with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities. A Special Educational Need as defined in the Code of Practice (May 2015) is 'a child or young person has SEND if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her'. A child must not be regarded as having a learning difficulty solely because the language or form of the language of the home is different from the language in which he/she is taught.

Aims:

We work together to ensure that there is a common understanding of and coherent approach to special educational needs by teachers, pupils, parents, governors and the wider community, to:

- Identify and provide for pupils who have Special Educational Needs and other additional needs through a graduated response.
- Adhere to the guidance in the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice 2015.
- Ensure a whole school approach to the management and provision of support for Special Educational Needs so that each child's needs are identified and met.
- Provide a suitably qualified and experienced SENDCo who will lead and facilitate SEND provision within the school.
- Enable all children to have access to a broad, balanced and appropriate curriculum, regardless of SEND.
- Provide support and advice for all staff working with pupils with SEND.
- Provide appropriate teaching programmes that will help all children to reach their full potential.
- Develop, lead and maintain partnerships and high levels of engagement with parents, pupils and all stakeholders in relation to SEND.

Identifying Special Educational Needs:

A pupil is considered to have Special Educational Needs if they have either a learning difficulty or a disability and they need special educational provision to be made for them. Special educational provision is defined as any education provision which is additional to or different from that generally made for others of the same age in mainstream school. At Thornhill Primary School we believe that class teachers are teachers of all children. It is their responsibility to meet the needs of all pupils within their care. They do this by employing high quality teaching strategies which acknowledge the individual needs of each pupil in their class. When a pupil does not make adequate progress this is identified, and provision is put in place within the classroom setting to try to address this. The Code of Practice (2015) identifies four broad categories of Special Educational Needs.

These are:

1. Communication and Interaction
2. Cognition and Learning
3. Social, Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties
4. Sensory and Physical Needs

At Thornhill Primary School we recognise that these four categories broadly identify aspects of the primary need for a pupil with SEN, however we also acknowledge that every pupil is unique and understand the importance of examining the needs of the 'whole child'. We recognise the need to gather information about the pupil from everyone involved in the pupil's education, and acknowledge the importance of information about the pupil from other partners in their education, particularly their parent/carers. We work in close partnership with all involved to ensure the best possible provision for the pupil.

A Graduated Approach to Special Educational Needs Support:

The graduated approach is at the heart of whole school practice at Thornhill Primary School, as we are continually assessing, planning, implementing and reviewing our approach to teaching all children. This process is called Assess, Plan, Do, Review.

Assess: At Thornhill Primary School, we believe that class teachers are responsible and accountable for the progress and development of all the pupils within their class (Teachers Standards 2012). Teachers are supported in this by regular meetings with the SENDCo to discuss individual concerns are discussed and where to go next to ensure the pupil in question gets the correct support and intervention. needs within their class. Regular Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is provided to enhance staff skills and understanding of SEND.

The Code of Practice suggests using a range of sources of information including:

- Teacher's assessment and experience of the pupil.
- Pupil progress, attainment and behaviour.
- The individual's development in comparison with their peers.
- Views and experience of parents.
- The pupil's own views.
- Advice from external support services if already involved.
- Standardised testing, criterion referenced assessments, screening assessments.

The class teacher, in discussion with the SENDCo, may place the child on the school SEND list and targets will be created for the child. Parents/Carers will be involved in this discussion.

Plan: The Code of Practice clearly says that 'all teachers and support staff should be made aware of a child's needs, the support provided and any teaching strategies or approaches that are required.' At Thornhill Primary School children who are on the SEND register will either have a SEND support plan or an EHCP, depending on the level of support that is required. Class teachers, alongside the SENDCo plan targets for children who are on the SEND register and discuss what resources and interventions the child needs. The level of support provided will be flexible and will depend on the immediate needs of the individual pupil.

Do: Lessons at Thornhill School are adapted to enable all children to access the curriculum. Teachers also work closely with teaching assistants and specialist staff who are delivering interventions to plan and assess the impact of these interventions.

Review: All staff continually review the progress of all pupils on a daily, albeit informal, basis in every lesson through marking and feedback opportunities as well as regular discussions with support staff, and staff will make necessary adaptations to teaching and learning approaches and provision as appropriate. At Thornhill Primary School there are also more formal, rigorous ways of tracking progress. We have also introduced Evidence for Learning as a way of tracking pupil's progress towards individual targets.

It is important at this stage to assess whether a pupil needs to remain on the SEND register, whether they require more or less interventions to overcome barriers to learning, or whether the school has, despite its best endeavours been unable to effectively address the SEND of an individual pupil. If this is the case the school will consider (with reference to the Central Bedfordshire graduated response document, and the Local Offer) whether it needs to request advice from outside agencies. If this is considered in the best interests of the child, the SENDCo will facilitate a referral to the appropriate agency after collaborating with parents, pupils and staff. The SENDCo may also consider whether they need, in collaboration with parents to apply for an EHC Needs Assessment in order to access funding from the Local Authority. It may be appropriate to request additional support for a pupil through the Early Help Team, SALT team, EP team or outreach services. This will be discussed with parents before any additional support is requested.

Education, Health and Care (EHC) Needs Assessment:

If, despite the best efforts of all involved, a pupil has needs which are not being met by the provision Thornhill Primary School has in place it may be necessary to consider applying to the Local Authority for an EHC Needs assessment. The Local Authority must respond within 6 weeks to the request for an EHC Needs Assessment with a decision whether to carry out the assessment or not. If the Local Authority decides to carry out an EHC Needs Assessment they must complete this process within 16 weeks and inform parents as to whether they will be issuing a draft Education, Health and Care plan (EHC plan) or not. Once the draft EHC plan is issued parents and young people will have 15 days to respond and request a school placement. The school in question is then consulted. The EHC plan has to be finalised within 20 weeks of the initial request for statutory assessment

Thornhill Primary School will use all resources available to meet the needs of these individual children to the best of its ability. The Children's and Families Act 2014 requires Local Authorities to review an EHC plan within 12 months of it being issued and then every subsequent 12 months. This responsibility is usually delegated to the school. All Annual reviews will be chaired by the SENDCo and all involved parties will be invited to attend. Families may choose to request a personal budget to support them in securing the provision identified in the EHC plan. If this option is chosen the SENDCo will support the family in accessing the services they require.

Responsibilities:

The class teacher is responsible for:

- Ensuring that their planning and teaching includes strategies and teaching methods which will ensure that children identified as having SEND have every opportunity to access the full curriculum.
- Ensuring evidence is collected towards individual targets
- Being familiar with and implementing relevant aspects of the SEND policy and SEND information report.
- Keeping the SENDCo informed of any changes to need or circumstances.

The Teaching Assistants are responsible for:

- Supporting groups or individual pupils to access the curriculum under the direction of the class teacher.
- Providing feedback to the teacher regarding children's progress.
- Being familiar with and implementing relevant aspects of the SEND policy and SEND information report.

The SENDCo is responsible for:

- Overseeing the day to day operation of the school's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) policy and SEND information report.
- Coordinating provision for children who have SEND.
- Liaising with and advising fellow teachers in relation to SEND.
- Maintaining the school's SEND register and overseeing the records of all children who have SEND.
- Liaising with other relevant parties including parents, the SEND Governor and professionals.
- Reviewing and keeping updated the SEND policy and SEND information report.
- Carrying out assessments of children identified as having SEND.
- Preparing documentation for requests for formal assessments or referrals.
- Arranging the annual review of children with an Education, Health and Care plan.

The Governing Body is responsible for:

- Doing its best to secure that the necessary provision is made for any pupil who has SEND.
- Ensuring that teachers in the school are aware of the importance of identifying, and providing for, those pupils who have SEND.
- Consulting the LA and the Governing Bodies of other schools, when it seems to be necessary or desirable in the interests of coordinated special educational provision in the area as a whole.
- Ensuring that a pupil who has SEND joins in the activities of the school together with pupils who do not have Special Educational Needs, so far as is reasonably practical and compatible with the child receiving the special educational provision their learning needs call for and the efficient education of the pupils with whom they are educated and the efficient use of resources.
- Reporting annually to parents on the implementation of the school's policy for pupils who have SEND.
- Having regard to the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice (January 2015) when carrying out its duties toward all pupils who have SEND.
- Ensuring that parents are notified of a decision by the school that SEND provision is being made for their child.
- Ensuring they are up to date and knowledgeable about the school's SEND provision including the deployment of resources.
- Ensuring that the quality of SEND provision is continually monitored.
- Ensuring that SEND provision is an integral part of the school development plan giving careful consideration to the time allocated for SENDCo.

Resources:

Many children with Special Educational Needs will not need resources outside those normally found in the classroom. Adapting class work within a curriculum framework will help to meet the learning needs of all children. However, some children may need a particular piece of equipment, additional intervention or additional teacher support to support their learning. Teaching Assistants are assigned to classes in order to support all children including those experiencing difficulties, whether this be on a 1:1 basis or small group support.

Partnership with Parents:

All services available in the local area are identified by the Local Authority in the Local Offer. This can be found on the Special Educational Needs page on the School's website. The provision for SEND at Thornhill Primary School is identified in our SEND Information report which can be found on the school website. The school will support parents in accessing support for their child from external agencies, and will refer children and families to services as appropriate. This referral may take place through the Early Help Assessment process or through direct referrals to services facilitated by the SENDCo. The SENDCo will also signpost the child/families to relevant agencies who may be able to provide additional support for the child/family. Admission arrangements for Thornhill Primary School can be found in the Admissions Policy, but no child will be discriminated against as a result of their SEND. Where necessary, specialist access arrangements will be put in place to ensure equality of access to assessment and national testing. This will be facilitated by the SENDCo. Where a child with SEND is due to transition to our school, or from our school to another setting, the SENDCo will ensure smooth transition of information. The SENDCo will arrange a transition meeting and additional transition visits/arrangements as necessary. Our school places high value on parental involvement and opinion, and recognises the important role they play. Parents will be involved at every stage of the process and informed as and when the class teacher has any concerns.

Involvement of Children:

At Thornhill Primary School we believe it is of paramount importance that the children are involved at every stage of the process where appropriate. This ensures they are aware of the difficulties they have and allows them to take responsibility for their own learning.

Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions:

The school will use its best endeavours to meet the needs of every child. This includes those children with medical conditions. These children will have a care plan if necessary. Some pupils who have a medical condition may be disabled, and where this is the case Thornhill Primary School will comply with the duties placed on it by the Equality Act 2010.

Links with External Agencies:

Appropriate outside agencies are contacted throughout the year to provide support. The relevant personnel will then liaise with the SENDCo as to the best course of action. This will only be done in agreement with parents. Children in the Early Years settings have their own team of support services. Examples of available external agencies:

- Education Psychologist
- Early Years SEND team
- Social, Emotional and Behaviour Support Services (The Jigsaw Centre)
- Speech and Language Therapists (SALT)
- School Nurse
- Outreach Services
- Occupational Therapists
- Physiotherapy
- The Edwin Lobo Centre
- CAMH
- Visual impairment services
- Hearing impairment services
- SEND Advisory team
- MHST
- Medical Needs team

Equal Opportunities:

Opportunities to take part in all areas of school life must be open and available to all pupils. All children should be allowed access to and given confidence in the different activities offered, regardless of their ability, gender, religion or culture/ethnic background. The content of lessons and the resources available should ensure that all pupils are valued equally, are able to participate with enjoyment and are able to achieve qualities and standards appropriate to their age, experience and ability.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Criteria for monitoring and evaluating the success of this SEND policy:

- Where provision is good, the pupils make the greatest progress possible
- The SEND needs of the pupils are systematically assessed and the teaching is carefully matched to their needs
- Professional and material resources are effectively deployed to ensure all pupils are well integrated into the life and work of the school
- Attitudes to those with SEND needs are positive and constructive
- There is judicious use of professional support services
- Parents are consulted regularly
- High expectations are evident throughout the school
- Training needs are met
- Expertise is used to the fullest
- Targets are relevant, specific and of a high standard
- SEND paperwork is up to date

In addition to this the SEND Governor will visit the school to monitor and challenge the delivery of SEND provision. Special Needs provision will be monitored continually by staff, governors with special needs responsibilities, SENDCo and Headteacher.