

Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) policy

Burton C of E Primary School



**Burton C of E
Primary School**

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Contents

1. Aims and objectives	3
2. Vision and values.....	3
Our Aims in Practice	3
What This Looks Like Day to Day	4
3. Legislation and guidance	4
4. Inclusion and equal opportunities	5
5. Definitions	5
6. Roles and responsibilities	6
7. SEN information report	9
8. Our approach to SEND support.....	9
9. Attendance.....	12
10. Safeguarding	12
11. Expertise and training of staff	12
12. Links with external professional agencies	12
13. Admission and accessibility arrangements	12
14. Complaints about SEND provision	13
15. Monitoring and evaluation arrangements	13
16. Links with other policies and documents	13

1. Aims and objectives

Our special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) policy aims to:

- Make sure our school fully implements national legislation and guidance regarding pupils with SEND
- Set out how our school will:
 - Support and make provision for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities
 - Provide pupils with SEND access to all aspects of school life so they can engage in the activities of the school alongside pupils who do not have SEND
 - Help pupils with SEND fulfil their aspirations and achieve their best
 - Help pupils with SEND become confident individuals living fulfilling lives
 - Communicate with pupils with SEND and their parents or carers and involve them in discussions and decisions about support and provision for the pupil
- Explain the roles and responsibilities of everyone involved in providing for pupils with SEND
- Communicate with, and involve, pupils with SEND and their parents or carers in discussions and decisions about support and provision for the pupil
- Make sure the SEND policy is understood and implemented consistently by all staff

2. Vision and values

At our school, we believe that every child is entitled to an education that enables them to flourish both academically and personally. Our vision is rooted in the belief that all pupils, regardless of their needs, should be valued, included and empowered to achieve their full potential. We are committed to fostering a culture of high aspiration, where differences are embraced and where every child can experience success.

We ensure that all pupils have access to a broad, balanced and enriching curriculum that is appropriately adapted to meet individual needs. Our approach recognises that pupils learn in different ways and at different paces. We aim to remove barriers that may hinder progress and wellbeing, ensuring that all children feel safe, confident and able to take part fully in school life.

Our school is committed to providing an inclusive environment in which pupils with SEND are supported through high-quality teaching, carefully planned provision, and thoughtful pastoral support. We believe that inclusion is everyone's responsibility; therefore, all staff play a role in identifying needs, planning interventions and ensuring positive outcomes for pupils with SEND.

Our Aims in Practice

To achieve the best possible outcomes for pupils with SEND, we endeavour to:

- **Ensure early identification of need:**
We use a combination of teacher observations, assessments, and discussions with families to identify learning needs as early as possible. Once a barrier to learning is identified, we put in place timely, targeted and evidence-based support to help pupils make progress.
- **Provide appropriate and effective provision:**
Pupils receive support tailored to their individual needs, whether through differentiated classroom teaching, small-group interventions, specialist resources, or referrals for external assessment. Our provision is regularly monitored and reviewed to ensure it remains impactful and appropriate.
- **Develop and maintain strong partnerships with parents and carers:**
We recognise that parents know their children best and are essential partners in the SEND process. We work collaboratively with families through open communication, regular review meetings and shared decision-making, ensuring they are kept informed and involved at every stage.

- **Work closely with external professionals and agencies:**
We collaborate with a wide range of health, social care and educational professionals—including speech and language therapists, educational psychologists, CAMHS and specialist outreach services—to provide holistic support for pupils with SEND. This joint working helps us create comprehensive plans that address academic, social, emotional and physical needs.
- **Follow the statutory guidance of the SEND Code of Practice (2014):**
Our procedures, systems and decision-making reflect the principles of the Code of Practice. We use a graduated approach of *assess, plan, do, review* to ensure that provision is responsive and continually refined.
- **Support, train and advise staff:**
We are committed to ensuring that all staff have the knowledge and skills necessary to support pupils with SEND effectively. Regular training, coaching and access to specialist advice help staff create inclusive classrooms where all learners are recognised, valued and supported to succeed.

What This Looks Like Day to Day

In practice, our efforts to secure the best outcomes for pupils with SEND include:

- High-quality classroom teaching that anticipates and addresses a range of learning needs.
- Personalised support plans (Learning Plans) that set clear, achievable targets and outline the provision each pupil requires.
- Ongoing assessment that informs teaching and enables early intervention where needed.
- Pastoral support that promotes emotional regulation, wellbeing and positive relationships.
- Adaptations to the learning environment, resources and routines to ensure access for all pupils.
- Regular collaboration between class teachers, the SENDCo, learning support assistants and specialist staff.
- Opportunities for pupils with SEND to participate fully in enrichment activities, trips and wider school life.
- A strong culture of empathy, respect and celebration of difference within the school community.

Through these approaches, we aim to ensure that every pupil with SEND feels supported, understood and equipped to achieve their unique potential, both now and in the future.

3. Legislation and guidance

This is based on the statutory guidance [Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\) Code of Practice](#), [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) and [working together to improve school attendance](#).

This policy is also based on the following legislation:

- › [Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014](#), which sets out schools' responsibilities for pupils with SEND
- › [The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014](#), which set out local authorities' and schools' responsibilities for education, health and care (EHC) plans, SEN co-ordinators (SENCOs) and the special educational needs (SEN) information report
- › The [Equality Act 2010](#) (section 20), which sets out the school's duties to make reasonable adjustments for pupils with disabilities
- › The [Public Sector Equality Duty](#) (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010), which set out the school's responsibilities to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation; and advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic (which includes having a disability) and those who don't share it
- › The governance guide for maintained schools which sets out governors responsibilities for pupils with SEND
- › The [School Admissions Code](#), which sets out the school's obligation to admit all pupils whose education, health and care (EHC) plan names the school, and its duty not to disadvantage unfairly children with a disability or with special educational needs

4. Inclusion and equal opportunities

At our school we strive to create an inclusive teaching environment that offers all pupils, no matter their needs and abilities, a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum. We are committed to offering all pupils the chance to thrive and fulfil their aspirations.

We will achieve this by making reasonable adjustments to teaching, the curriculum and the school environment to make sure that pupils with SEND are included in all aspects of school life.

5. Definitions

5.1 Special educational needs

A pupil has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability that requires special educational provision to be made for them.

They have a **learning difficulty or disability** if they have:

- A significantly greater difficulty in learning than most others of the same age, or
- A disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools

Special educational provision is educational or training provision that is additional to, or different from, that made generally for other children or young people of the same age by mainstream schools.

5.2 Disability

Pupils are considered to have a **disability** if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to do normal daily activities.

The school will make reasonable adjustments for pupils with disabilities, so that they are not at a substantial disadvantage compared with their peers.

5.3 The 4 areas of need

The needs of pupils with SEND are grouped into 4 broad areas. Pupils can have needs that cut across more than 1 area, and their needs may change over time.

Interventions will be selected that are appropriate for the pupil's particular area(s) of need, at the relevant time.

AREA OF NEED	
Communication and interaction	Pupils with needs in this area have difficulty communicating with others. They may have difficulty understanding what is being said to them, have trouble expressing themselves, or not understand or use the social rules of communication. Pupils who are on the autism spectrum often have needs that fall in this category.

AREA OF NEED	
Cognition and learning	Pupils with learning difficulties usually learn at a slower pace than their peers. A wide range of needs are grouped in this area, including: • Specific learning difficulties, which impact 1 or more specific aspects of learning, such as: dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia • Moderate learning difficulties • Severe learning difficulties • Profound and multiple learning difficulties, which is where pupils are likely to have severe and complex learning difficulties as well as a physical disability or sensory impairment
Social, emotional and mental health	These needs may reflect a wide range of underlying difficulties or disorders. Pupils may have: • Mental health difficulties such as anxiety, depression or an eating disorder • Attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactive disorder or attachment disorder • Suffered adverse childhood experiences These needs can manifest in many ways, for example as challenging, disruptive or disturbing behaviour, or by the pupil becoming withdrawn or isolated.
Sensory and/or physical	Pupils with these needs have a disability that hinders them from accessing the educational facilities generally provided. Pupils may have: • A sensory impairment such as vision impairment, hearing impairment or multi-sensory impairment • A physical impairment These pupils may need ongoing additional support and equipment to access all the opportunities available to their peers.

6. Roles and responsibilities

6.1 The SENDCo

The SENDCo at our school is Mrs Reeves, who can be contacted via the school office.

They will:

- Inform any parents that their child may have SEN and then liaise with them about the pupil's needs and any provision made
- Work with the headteacher and SEN governor to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision in the school
- Have day-to-day responsibility for the operation of this SEND policy and the co-ordination of specific provision made to support individual pupils with SEN, including those who have EHC plans

- › Provide professional guidance to colleagues and liaise and work with staff, parents, and other agencies to make sure that pupils with SEN receive appropriate support and high-quality teaching
- › Advise on the graduated approach to providing SEN support and differentiated teaching methods appropriate for individual pupils
- › Advise on the deployment of the school's delegated budget and other resources to meet pupils' needs effectively
- › Be a point of contact for external agencies, especially the local authority (LA) and its support services, and work with external agencies to make sure that appropriate provision is provided
- › Liaise with potential next providers of education to make sure that the pupil and their parents/carers are informed about options and that a smooth transition is planned
- › When a pupil moves to a different school or institution: Make sure that all relevant information about a pupil's SEN and the provision for them are sent to the appropriate authority, school or institution in a timely manner
- › Work with the headteacher and school governors to make sure the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements
- › Make sure the school keeps its records of all pupils with SEND up to date and accurate
- › With the headteacher, monitor to identify any staff who have specific training needs regarding SEN, and incorporate this into the school's plan for continuous professional development
- › With the headteacher, regularly review and evaluate the breadth and impact of the SEND support the school offers or can access, and co-operate with the LA in reviewing the provision that is available locally and in developing the local offer
- › Prepare and review information for inclusion in the school's SEN information report and any updates to this policy
- › With the headteacher and teaching staff, identify any patterns in the school's identification of SEN, both within the school and in comparison with national data, and use these to reflect on and reinforce the quality of teaching
- › Advise the LA when a pupil needs an EHC needs assessment, or when an EHC plan needs an early review

6.2 The governing board

The governing board is responsible for making sure the following duties are carried out, though the duties can be delegated to a committee or an individual:

- › Do all it can to make sure that every pupil with SEND gets the support they need
- › Make sure that pupils with SEND engage in the activities of the school alongside pupils who don't have SEND
- › Inform parents/carers when the school is making special educational provision for their child
- › Make sure that the school has arrangements in place to support any pupils with medical conditions
- › Provide access to a broad and balanced curriculum
- › Have a clear approach to identifying and responding to SEND
- › Provide an annual report for parents/carers on their child's progress
- › Record accurately and keep up to date the provision made for pupils with SEND
- › Publish information on the school website about how the school is implementing its SEND policy, in an SEN information report
- › Publish information about the arrangements for the admission of disabled children, the steps taken to prevent disabled children being treated less favourably than others, the facilities provided to assist access of disabled children, and the school's accessibility plans

- › Make sure that there is a qualified teacher designated as SENDCo for the school and that the key responsibilities of the role are set out, and monitor the effectiveness of how these are carried out
- › Determine their approach to using their resources to support the progress of pupils with SEND

6.3 The SEND link governor

The SEND link governor is Mrs K Whitehall

The SEND governor will:

- › Help to raise awareness of SEND issues at governing board meetings
- › Monitor the quality and effectiveness of SEND provision within the school and update the governing board on this
- › Work with the headteacher and SENDCo to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision in the school

6.4 The headteacher

The headteacher will:

- › Work with the SENDCo and SEND link governor to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision within the school
- › Work with the SENDCo and school governors to make sure the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements
- › Have overall responsibility for, and awareness of, the provision for pupils with SEND, and their progress
- › Have responsibility for monitoring the school's notional SEND budget and any additional funding allocated by the LA to support individual pupils
- › Make sure that the SENDCo has enough time to carry out their duties
- › Have an overview of the needs of the current cohort of pupils on the SEND register
- › With the SENDCo, identify specific training needs regarding SEN, and incorporate this into the school's plan for continuous professional development
- › With the SENDCo, regularly review and evaluate the breadth and impact of the SEND support the school offers or can access, and co-operate with the LA in reviewing the provision that is available locally and in developing the local offer
- › With the SENDCo and teaching staff, identify any patterns in the school's identification of SEN, both within the school and in comparison with national data, and use these to reflect on and reinforce the quality of teaching

6.5 Class teachers

Each class teacher is responsible for:

- › Planning and providing high-quality teaching that is scaffolded and/or differentiated to meet pupil needs through a graduated approach
- › The progress and development of every pupil in their class
- › Working closely with any teaching assistants or specialist staff to plan and assess the impact of support and interventions, and consider how they can be linked to classroom teaching
- › Working with the SENDCo to review each pupil's progress and development, and decide on any changes to provision. Learning Plan meetings take place termly between SENDCo and class teachers.
- › Ensuring they follow this SEND policy and the SEN information report
- › Communicating with parents/carers regularly to:
 - Set clear outcomes and review progress towards them

- Discuss the activities and support that will help achieve the set outcomes
- Identify the responsibilities of the parent, the pupil and the school
- Listen to the parents'/carers' concerns and agree their aspirations for the pupil

6.6 Parents or carers

Parents or carers should inform the school if they have any concerns about their child's progress or development.

Parents or carers of a pupil on the SEND register will always be given the opportunity to provide information and express their views about the pupil's SEND and the support provided. They will be invited to participate in discussions and decisions about this support. They will be:

- Invited to termly meetings to review the provision that is in place for their child
- Asked to provide information about the impact of SEN support outside school and any changes in the pupil's needs
- Given an annual report on the pupil's progress

The school will take into account the views of the parents or carers in any decisions made about the pupil.

6.7 The pupil

Pupils will always be given the opportunity to provide information and express their views about their SEND and the support provided. They will be invited to participate in discussions and decisions about this support. This might involve the pupil:

- Explaining what their strengths and difficulties are
- Contributing to setting targets or outcomes
- Attending review meetings (EHCPs)
- Knowing their targets and next steps
- Understanding what support is available to them and how they can help themselves

The pupil's views will be taken into account in making decisions that affect them, whenever possible.

7. SEN information report

We publish an SEN information report on our website, which sets out how this policy is implemented in the school: <https://www.burtonschool.co.uk/send-and-inclusion/>

The information report will be updated annually and as soon as possible after any changes to the information it contains.

8. Our approach to SEND support

8.1 Identifying pupils with SEND and assessing their needs

We will assess each pupil's current skills and levels of attainment when they start at the school. This will build on information from previous settings and Key Stages, where appropriate. We will also consider any evidence that the pupil may have a disability and if so, what reasonable adjustments the school may need to make.

Class teachers will regularly assess the progress of all pupils and identify any whose progress:

- Is significantly slower than that of their peers starting from the same baseline
- Fails to match or better their previous rate of progress
- Fails to close the attainment gap between them and their peers

➤ Widens the attainment gap

This may include progress in areas other than attainment; for example, wider development or social needs.

When teachers identify an area where a pupil is making slow progress, they will target the pupil's area of weakness with scaffolded, high-quality teaching. If progress does not improve, the teacher will raise the issue with the SENDCo using the Class Inclusion Overview and the termly Learning Plan meeting. An initial discussion about whether this lack of progress may be due to a special educational need will take place. Where necessary they will, in consultation with the pupil's parents or carers, consider consulting an external specialist.

Slow progress and low attainment will not automatically mean a pupil is recorded as having SEN.

Potential short-term causes of impact on behaviour or performance will be considered, such as bullying or bereavement. Staff will also take particular care in identifying and assessing SEN for pupils whose first language is not English.

When deciding whether the pupil needs special educational provision, we 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. We will use this to determine the support that is needed and whether we can provide it by adapting our universal offer, or whether something different or additional is needed.

If a pupil is joining the school, and:

- Their previous setting has already identified that they have SEN
- They are known to external agencies
- They have an education, health and care plan (EHCP)

then the school will work in a multi-agency way to make sure we get relevant information before the pupil starts at school, so support can be put in place as early as possible.

8.2 Consulting and involving pupils and parents/carers

The school will put the pupil and their parents/carers at the heart of all decisions made about special educational provision.

When we are aiming to identify whether a pupil needs special education provision, we will have an early discussion with the pupil and their parents/carers.

These conversations will make sure that:

- Everyone develops a good understanding of the pupil's areas of strength and difficulty
- We take into account any concerns the parents/carers have
- Everyone understands the agreed outcomes sought for the child
- Everyone is clear on what the next steps are, including the child, where appropriate

8.3 The graduated approach to SEN support

Once a pupil has been identified as having SEN, we will take action to remove any barriers to learning, and put effective special educational provision in place. This support will be delivered through successive rounds of a 4-part cycle known as the graduated approach.

1. Assess

The pupil's class teacher and the SENDCo will assess the pupil's barriers to learning/needs. The views of the pupil and their parents/carers will be taken into account. The school may also seek advice from external support services.

The assessment will be reviewed regularly to help make sure that the support in place is matched to the pupil's need. For many pupils, the most reliable way to identify needs is to observe the way they respond to an intervention or targeted in-class support.

2. Plan

In consultation with the parents/carers and the pupil, the teacher and the SENDCo will decide which adjustments, interventions and support will be put into place, the expected outcomes, and a clear date for review.

All staff who work with the pupil will be made aware of the pupil's needs, the outcomes sought, the support provided and any teaching strategies or approaches that are needed. This information will be made accessible to staff in the form of a Learning Plan.

3. Do

The pupil's class or subject teacher retains overall responsibility for their progress.

Where the plan involves group or 1-to-1 teaching away from the main class or subject teacher, they still retain responsibility for the pupil. They will work closely with any teaching assistants or specialist staff involved, to plan and assess the impact of support and interventions and how they can be linked to classroom teaching.

The SENDCo will support the teacher in further assessing the pupil's particular strengths and weaknesses, in problem solving and advising on how to implement support effectively.

4. Review

The effectiveness of the support and interventions and their impact on the pupil's progress will be reviewed in line with the agreed date.

We will evaluate the impact and quality of the support and interventions. This evaluation will be based on:

- The views of the parents/carers and pupils
- The level of progress the pupil has made towards their outcomes
- The views of teaching staff who work with the pupil

The teacher and the SENDCo will revise the outcomes and support in light of the pupil's progress and development, and update their Learning Plan.

8.4 Levels of support

School-based SEN provision

Pupils receiving SEN provision will be placed on the school's SEND register. These pupils have needs that can be met by the school through the graduated approach. Where the pupil's needs cannot be adequately met with in-house expertise, staff will consider involving an external specialist as soon as possible.

The provision for these pupils is funded through the school's notional SEND budget.

On the census these pupils will be marked with the code K.

Education, health and care (EHC) plan

Pupils who need more support than is available through the school's school-based SEN provision may be entitled to an EHC plan. The plan is a legal document that describes the needs of the pupil, the provision that will be put in place, and the outcomes sought.

The provision for these pupils will be funded from the school's notional SEND budget, and potentially from the LA (from the high-level needs funding block of the dedicated schools grant).

On the census these pupils will be marked with the code E.

8.5 Evaluating the effectiveness of SEN provision

We evaluate the effectiveness of provision for pupils with SEN by:

- Tracking pupils' progress
- Carrying out the 'review' stage of the graduated approach in every cycle of SEN support

- Using pupil questionnaires/pupil voice
- Monitoring by the SENDCo (Inclusion Class Overviews/Learning Plan meetings)
- Holding annual reviews for pupils with EHC plans
- Gathering feedback from staff, the pupil and their parents/carers

9. Attendance

Many pupils with SEND face complex barriers to attendance. Their right to an education is the same as any other pupil and therefore the attendance ambition for these pupils is the same as it is for any other pupil. However, they may need additional support.

Our approach to supporting pupils who are absent from school due to their SEND is set out in our attendance policy: <https://www.burtonschool.co.uk/school-policies/>

10. Safeguarding

We recognise that pupils with SEND can face additional safeguarding challenges. Children with disabilities are more likely to be abused than their peers, and additional barriers can exist when recognising abuse, exploitation and neglect in this group.

For more details of the pastoral support we offer pupils with SEND, and the support we provide to help pupils overcome any communication barriers they face, see our safeguarding/child protection policy: <https://www.burtonschool.co.uk/school-policies/>

11. Expertise and training of staff

Training will regularly be provided to teaching and support staff. The headteacher and the SENDCo will continuously monitor to identify any specific training needs and will incorporate this into the school's plan for continuous professional development.

12. Links with external professional agencies

The school recognises that it won't be able to meet all the needs of every pupil. Whenever necessary, the school will work with external support services such as:

- Speech and language therapists
- Specialist teachers or support services
- Educational psychologists
- Occupational therapists, speech and language therapists or physiotherapists
- General practitioners or paediatricians
- School nurses
- Child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS)
- Education welfare officers
- Social services

13. Admission and accessibility arrangements

Please see the school website for further information: <https://www.burtonschool.co.uk/admissions/>

13.1 Admission arrangements

As Burton C of E Primary School is a voluntary controlled school, applications are processed using BCP Council's admission arrangements.

13.2 Accessibility arrangements

The Burton School Accessibility Plan shows how access is to be improved for disabled pupils, staff and visitors to the school in a given timeframe and anticipating the need to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate their needs where practicable.

Please see our Accessibility Policy on the school website: <https://www.burtonschool.co.uk/send-and-inclusion/>

Further information about our school's accessibility can be found on the local authority's Local Offer website; this can be found BCP SEND local offer <https://www.fid.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/send-local-offer>

14. Complaints about SEND provision

Where parents/carers have concerns about our school's SEND provision, they should first raise their concerns informally with the class teacher or SENDCo. We will try to resolve the complaint informally in the first instance. If this does not resolve their concerns, parents are welcome to submit their complaint formally.

Please refer to the school's complaints policy <https://www.burtonschool.co.uk/school-policies/>

To see a full explanation of suitable avenues for complaint, see pages 246 and 247 of the [SEND Code of Practice](#).

If you feel that our school has discriminated against your child because of their SEN, 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>

15. Monitoring and evaluation arrangements

15.1 Evaluating the effectiveness of the policy

We are constantly looking for ways to improve our SEND policy. We will do this by evaluating whether or not we are meeting our objectives set out in section 1.

We will evaluate how effective our SEND provision is with regards to:

- All staff's awareness of pupils with SEND at the start of the autumn term
- How early pupils are identified as having SEND
- Pupils' progress and attainment once they have been identified as having SEND
- Whether pupils with SEND feel safe, valued and included in the school community
- Comments and feedback from pupils and their parents/carers

15.2 Monitoring the policy

This policy will be reviewed by our SENDCo and SEND link governor every year. It will also be updated when any new legislation, requirements or changes in procedure occur during the year.

It will be approved by the full governing board.

16. Links with other policies and documents

This policy links to the following documents:

- SEN information report
- The local offer
- Accessibility plan
- Behaviour policy
- Equality information and objectives
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy
- Allergy Management policy
- Attendance policy
- Safeguarding / child protection policy
- Complaints policy