

Moorside CP Academy

Special Educational Needs Information Report (September 2025)

1. Aims of our provision with regards to pupils with special educational needs and/or disability.

The aims of Moorside CP Academy's policy and practice in relation to special educational need and disability are:

- To make reasonable adjustments for those with a special educational need or disability (SEND) by taking action to increase access to the curriculum, the environment and to printed information for all.
- To ensure that children and young people with SEND engage in the activities of the school alongside pupils who do not have SEND.
- To reduce barriers to progress by embedding the principles in the [National Curriculum Inclusion statement.](#)
- To use our best endeavours to secure special educational provision for pupils for whom this is required, that is “additional to and different from” that provided within the adapted curriculum, to better respond to the four broad areas of need:

1. Communication and interaction.
2. Cognition and learning.
3. Social, emotional and mental health.
4. Sensory/physical.

- To request, monitor and respond to parent and pupil views in order to evidence high levels of confidence and partnership.
- To ensure a high level of staff expertise to meet pupil need, through well-targeted continuing professional development.
- To support pupils with medical conditions to achieve full inclusion in all school activities by ensuring consultation with health and social care professionals in order to meet the medical needs of pupils.
- To work in cooperative and productive partnership with the Local Authority and other outside agencies, to ensure there is a multi-professional approach to meeting the needs of all vulnerable learners.

2. What are special educational needs or a disability (SEND)?

At our school we use the definition for SEN and for disability from the SEND Code of Practice (2015).

This states:

- **Special Educational Needs:** A child or young person has special educational needs if he or she has a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her.
- A learning difficulty or disability is a **significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age.**
- Special educational provision means **educational or training provision that is additional to, or different from,** that made generally for others of the same age in a mainstream setting in England.

- **Disability:** Many children and young people who have SEN may have a disability under the Equality Act 2010 - that is ‘... a physical or mental impairment which has a long-term and substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities’. This definition includes sensory impairments such as those affecting sight or hearing, and long-term health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, and cancer.

3. The kinds of special educational needs and disability (SEND) for which provision is made at the school:

- Children and young people with SEND have different needs, but the general presumption is that all children with SEND but without an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) are welcome to apply for a place at our school, in line with the school admissions policy. If a place is available, we will undertake to use our best endeavours, in partnership with parents, to make the provision required to meet the SEND requirements of pupils at this school.
- For children with an EHCP, parents have the right to request a particular school and the local authority must comply with that preference and name the school or college in the EHC Plan unless it would be unsuitable for the age, ability, aptitude or SEND of the child or young person, or the attendance of the child or young person there would be incompatible with the efficient education of others, or the efficient use of resources.
- Before making the decision to name our school in a child’s EHCP, the local authority will send the governing body a copy of the EHCP and then consider their comments very carefully before a final decision on placement is made. In addition, the local authority must also seek the agreement of

school where the draft EHCP sets out any provision to be delivered on their premises that have been secured through a direct payment (personal budget).

- Parents of a child with an EHCP also have the right to seek a place at a special school if it they consider that their child's needs can be better met in specialist provision.

4. How does our school know if children need extra help?

We know when a pupil needs help if:

- Concerns are raised by parents/carers, external agencies, teachers, the pupil's previous school or the pupil themselves, regarding concerns relating to inadequate levels of progress or inclusion.
- Screening, such as that completed on entry or as a result of a concern being raised, indicates gaps in knowledge and/or skills.
- Whole school tracking of attainment outcomes indicates lack of expected rate of progress.
- Observation of/ working with the pupil indicates that they have additional needs.

5. What should a parent do if they think their child may have special educational needs?

- If parents have concerns relating to their child's learning or inclusion then please initially discuss these with your child's teacher. This then may result in a referral to the school SENCo whose name is Mrs. Rachel Russell whose contact details are rrussell@moorside-academy.co.uk

- Parents may also contact the SENCo or the Headteacher directly if they feel this is more appropriate.
- All parents will be listened to. Their views and their aspirations for their child will be central to the assessment and provision that is provided by the school.

6. How will the school support a child with SEND?

- All pupils will be provided with high quality teaching that is adapted to meet the needs of all learners. The quality of classroom teaching provided to pupils with SEND is monitored through a number of processes that include:
 1. Classroom observation by the senior leadership team, the SENCo, external verifiers.
 2. Ongoing assessment of progress made by pupils with SEND.
 3. Work sampling and scrutiny of planning to ensure effective matching of work to pupil need.
 4. Teacher meetings with the SENCo to provide advice and guidance on meeting the needs of pupils with SEND.
 5. Pupil and parent feedback on the quality and effectiveness of interventions provided.
 6. Attendance and behaviour records.

- Pupils with a disability will be provided with reasonable adjustments (such as auxiliary aids and services) to overcome any disadvantage experienced in school to increase their access to the taught curriculum.
- All pupils have individual targets set in line with national outcomes to ensure ambition. Parents are informed of these at individual meetings or at events such as Parents' Evenings.
- Pupils' attainments are tracked using the whole school tracking system and those failing to make expected levels of progress are identified very quickly. These pupils are then discussed in termly progress meetings that are undertaken between the class teacher and a member of the Senior Leadership Team and if appropriate, the pupil themselves.
- Additional action to increase the rate of progress will be then identified and recorded that will include a review of the impact of the adaptive teaching being provided to the child, and if required, provision to the teacher of additional strategies to further support the success of the pupil.
- Where it is decided during this early discussion that special educational provision is required to support increased rates of progress, parents will be informed that the school considers their child may require SEND support and their partnership sought in order to improve attainments.
- Action relating to SEND support will follow an assess, plan, do and review model as shown below:
 1. **Assess:** Data on the pupil held by the school will be collated by the class teacher and SENCo in order to make an accurate assessment of the pupil's needs. Parents will always be invited to this early discussion to support the identification of action to improve outcomes.
 2. **Plan:** If review of the action taken indicates that "additional to and different from" support will be required, then the views of all involved including the parents and the pupil will be obtained and appropriate evidence-based interventions identified, recorded and implemented by the class teacher with advice from the SENCo.

3. **Do:** SEND support will be recorded on a plan that will identify a clear set of expected outcomes, which will include relevant academic and developmental targets (this may include for young people, targets around preparing for adulthood) that take into account parents' aspirations for their child. Parents and the pupil (where appropriate) will also be consulted on the action they can take to support attainment of the desired outcomes. This will be recorded and a date made for reviewing attainment.
4. **Review:** Progress towards these outcomes will be tracked and reviewed termly with the parents and the pupil.

If progress rates are judged to be inadequate despite the delivery of high quality interventions, advice will always be sought from external agencies regarding strategies to best meet the specific needs of a pupil. This will only be undertaken after parent permission has been obtained and may include referral to:

- Local Authority Support Services.
- Specialist teachers.
- Specialists in other schools e.g. teaching schools, special schools.
- Social Services.
- Health partners such as School Nurse and Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service.

N.B. For a very small percentage of pupils, whose needs are significant and complex and the SEND Support required to meet their needs cannot reasonably be provided from within the school's own resources, a request will be made to the local authority to conduct an assessment of education, health and care needs. This may result in an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan being provided.

7. How will pupils be involved in decisions regarding provision that can better meet their needs?

This school uses pupil centred profiles (Pupil Passports). These are in part completed by the pupils themselves (where appropriate) and identify their abilities and strengths, their personal aims and the action they require to be taken by the school to reduce barriers to learning and social success. Each term, this information will be reviewed and the pupil's views gained on the effectiveness of the action taken so far to meet their needs.

8. How will the curriculum be matched to each child's needs?

- Teachers plan using pupils' attainment levels, adapting teaching to ensure progress for every pupil in the classroom.
- When a pupil has been identified as having special educational needs, the curriculum and the learning environment will be further adapted by the class teacher to reduce barriers to learning and enable them to access the curriculum more easily.
- These adaptations may include strategies suggested by the SENCo and/or external specialists.
- In addition, if it is considered appropriate, pupils may be provided with specialised equipment or resources such as ICT and/or additional adult help. All actions taken by the class teacher will be recorded and shared with parents.

9. How will parents know how their child is doing?

- Attainments towards the identified outcomes will be shared with parents termly through feedback regarding SEND support reviews but also through the school reporting system and Parents' Evenings.
- Parents may also find a home-school diary a useful tool to use to communicate with school staff on a more regular basis.
- Parents know that they can speak to teachers at the beginning and end of the school day or can make an appointment to see the teacher, Learning Mentor or SENCo.
- Parents are encouraged to arrange an appointment to discuss their child's progress with the class teacher, the SENCo or a member of the senior leadership team at any time when they feel concerned or have information they feel they would like to share that could impact on their child's success. Please contact the school office who will arrange this appointment for you. The contact number is 01695 722931.

10. How will parents be helped to support their child's learning?

- The class teacher or SENCo may suggest additional ways of supporting your child's learning.
- The school organises parent workshops during the year. These are advertised to parents and aim to provide useful opportunities for parents to learn more about how to support their child's learning.

- If parents have ideas on support that they would like to have access to in order to further support their child's learning, please contact the SENCo who will locate information and guidance for you in this area.

11. How will the school evaluate the effectiveness of the SEND provision made for pupils?

The effectiveness of SEND provision will be measured using both qualitative and quantitative data. Qualitative data will gather the views of parents and pupils on how successful the provision has been in enabling them to attain their outcomes. Quantitative data will examine both progress and attainment levels compared to those achieved nationally for pupils with the same prior learning level. This data will be shared with governors and be judged by external moderators such as Ofsted.

12. What support will there be for children's overall well-being?

The school offers a wide variety of pastoral support for pupils. This includes:

- An evaluated Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum that aims to provide pupils with the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to enhance their emotional and social knowledge and well-being.
- Small group evidence-led interventions to support pupil's well-being are delivered to targeted pupils and groups. These are identified on provision maps and aim to support improved interaction skills, emotional resilience and well-being.
- Pupils who find outside class times difficult are provided with alternative small group opportunities within the school and action is taken to develop their social interaction skills.

- The school has gained Healthy School status which evidences the work undertaken within the school to supports pupils' well-being and mental health.
- The school has a robust Anti-Bullying policy in place and the Headteacher/ Assistant Headteachers have an open-door policy in regards to parental concerns.
- The school has a dedicated Learning Mentor (Mrs McSorley).

13. Pupils with medical needs (Statutory duty under the Children and Families Act)

- Pupils with medical needs will be provided with a detailed Individual Health and Care Plan, compiled in partnership with the school nurse or appropriate outside agencies, parents and if appropriate, the pupil themselves.
- Staff who volunteer to administer and supervise medications, will complete training and be supported by the school nurse or appropriate outside agency.
- Our medicine administration procedures adhere to the LA policy and Department of Education (DfE) guidelines included within Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions (DfE) 2015 and identified in the School Administering Medication Policy.
- All staff with links to the EYFS have received Paediatric First Aid training as have most other staff.

14. What specialist services are available at the school?

The school has access to a range of specialist support including:

- Educational Psychology
- Speech and Language Therapy

- Occupational Therapy
- LEA Office SEND Team
- Lancashire Inclusion Service
- Inclusion and Engagement Support Team
- Specialist Teachers
- CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service)
- Social Services
- Ethnic Minority Team
- Education Welfare Office
- School Nurse
- Health Professionals
- Twinkle House
- SENCOs from secondary schools
- Other bodies as appropriate

15. What training do the staff supporting children and young people with SEND undertake?

School staff have received a range of training at three levels; awareness, enhanced and specialist. Awareness training has been provided to all staff on:

- How to support pupils with literacy and numeracy difficulties.
- How to support pupils on the autistic spectrum/ ADHD.
- How to support pupils with behavioural difficulties.
- How to support pupils with speech, language and communication difficulties.

- How to support pupils with attachment difficulties.
- How to support pupils with specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia.

Enhanced training has been provided to the SENCo on;

- Attendance at the termly SENCo Update
- Boxall Profile
- Wellcomm
- ADHD
- ASD
- Dyslexia

Specialist training has been provided to the SENCo on:

- The National Senco Award.
- The school has visits from SEND specialist teachers and the Behaviour Support Team who provide advice to staff on how to support the success and progress of individual pupils.
- The NHS Speech and Language Therapist visits regularly to assess and plan support for targeted pupils. These programmes are then delivered by trained Teaching Assistants.

16. How will my child be included in activities outside the classroom including school trips?

- Risk assessments are carried out and procedures are put in place to enable all children to participate in all school activities.
- The school ensures it has sufficient staff expertise to ensure that no child with SEND is excluded from any school provided activity.

17. How accessible is the school environment?

The following adaptations have been made to the school environment:

- Disabled parking spot marked and located next to the school reception.
- Ramps have replaced steps into school to ensure the site is accessible to all.
- One toilet has been adapted to ensure accessibility for pupils/visitors/staff with a disability.
- A room has been provided to enable a safe place for blood sugar testing/insulin injections.
- A Nurture Room has been developed to improve inclusion in the mainstream classrooms for vulnerable pupils (Sunshine Room).
- A Sensory Room is available on site and is accessible to all.

Our Accessibility Plan (statutory requirement) describes the actions the school has taken to increase access to the environment, the curriculum and to printed information available via the school website.

18. How will the school prepare/support my child when joining or transferring to a new school?

A number of strategies are in place to enable effective pupil transition. These include:

On entry:

- Parent/carers are invited to a meeting at the school and are provided with a range of information to support them in enabling their child to settle into the school routine.
- The SENCo meets with all new parents of pupils who are known to have SEND to allow concerns to be raised and solutions to any perceived challenges to be located prior to entry.

- If pupils are transferring from another setting, the previous school records will be requested immediately and a meeting set up with parents to identify and reduce any concerns.

Transition to the next school, preparation for adulthood and independent living:

- The transition review in Y5 for pupils with an EHCP begins the process where parents are supported to make decisions regarding secondary school choice.
- Parents will be encouraged to consider options for the next phase of education and the school will involve outside agencies, as appropriate, to ensure information provided is comprehensive but accessible.
- Accompanied visits to other providers may be arranged as appropriate.
- For pupils transferring to local schools, the SENCos of both schools will meet to discuss the needs of pupils with SEND in order to ensure a smooth transition. Additional transition experiences are arranged for children with SEND.
- The records of pupils who leave the school mid-phase will be transferred within five working days of the parents notifying that their child has been enrolled at another school.

How are the school's resources allocated and matched to children's special educational needs?

- The school receives funding to respond to the needs of pupils with SEND from a number of sources that includes:
 1. A proportion of the funds allocated per pupil to the school to provide for their education called the Age Weighted Pupil Unit.

2. The Notional SEND budget. This is a fund devolved to schools to support them to meet the needs of pupils with SEND.
 3. For those pupils with the most complex needs and who are awarded an EHC Plan, the school may be allocated additional educational needs funding from the Local Authorities High Needs SEND Funding allocation.
- This funding is then used to provide the equipment and facilities to support pupils with special educational needs and disabilities through support that might include:
 1. Targeted adaptations to increase access to text (desk copies of information, work buddy, accessible text, IT e.g. read aloud software, different recording strategies, additional time, etc.).
 2. In class, adult or peer support aimed at increasing skills in specific area of weakness (learning behaviours, organisation, etc.).
 3. Out of class support (relationship building, social, emotional skill development, etc.).
 4. Small group intervention to enable catch up (subject or targeted at additional need).
 5. Specific support, advice and guidance is provided to parents and families to improve pupil's readiness for learning (relating to pupil's difficulties in attendance, behaviour, physiological and emotional needs, etc.).
 6. Provision of specialist resources or equipment.
 7. Partnership working with other settings (shared resources, shared expertise, support from local special school on strategies to improve inclusion).

8. Access to before/after school clubs.
9. Access to the school nurse and wider health professional support (responding to mental and physical health issues, speech, language and communication needs, motor control and mobility needs).
10. Access to support from in-school sources e.g. learning mentors or from charities (e.g. Barnardos, NSPCC) and community sources.
11. Implementation of strategies from support agencies e.g. Behaviour Support.
12. Access to tailored therapy.

In addition:

- The Pupil Premium funding provides additional funding for pupils who are claiming Free School Meals, who are in the care of the local authority or whose parents are in the Armed Services. The deployment of this funding is published on the school website.
- If parents wish to discuss the options available for their child, they are welcome to make an appointment to see the class teacher, SENCo or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

19. How is the decision made about how much support each child will receive?

- For pupils with SEND but without an EHCP, the decision regarding the support provided will be taken at joint meetings with the SENCo, class teacher and parent who will follow guidance provided by the Governing Body regarding SEND Funding deployment.
- For pupils with a statement of educational need/EHCP, this decision will be reached in agreement with parents when the EHCP is being produced or at an annual review.

20. How will I be involved in discussions about and planning for my child's education?

This will be through:

- Discussions with the class teacher, SENCo or senior leadership team member.
- Parents' evenings.
- Meetings with support and external agencies where necessary.

21. Who can I contact for further information or if I have any concerns?

If you wish to discuss your child's special educational needs or are unhappy about any issues regarding the school's response to meeting these needs, please contact the following:

- Your child's class teacher.
- The SENCo.
- The Headteacher.
- For complaints, please contact the School Governor with responsibility for SEND. Her name is Karen Guinness and she can be contacted via the school office on 01695 722931.

Support services for parents of pupils with SEND include:

- Information, Advice and Support Service (0300 123 6706 or email on information.lineteam@lancashire.gov.uk) offers independent advice and support to parents and carers of all children and young people with SEND and will direct visitors to their nearest IAS service.
- For any additional support or advice visit the Lancashire County Council SEND website.
- For parents who are unhappy with the Local Authority or school responses to their child's SEND, parents may seek mediation from the regional mediation services.

- Parents and carers can also appeal to the Government's SEND tribunal if you disagree with the Local Authorities decisions about your child's special educational needs. You can also appeal to the tribunal if the school or council has discriminated against your disabled child.

22. Information on where the Local Authority's Local Offer can be found:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/send/>

Moorside CP Academy, Back Lane, Skelmersdale. WN8 9EA. 01695 722931.