



Gearies Primary School

Date the Information Report was agreed by Governors: 7/11/23

Date to be reviewed: November 2024

This Special Educational Needs Report should be read in conjunction with the SEND Policy (see school website)

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

The aims of our policy and practice in relation to special educational need and disability in this school are:

- To make reasonable adjustments for those with a disability 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 SEN engage in the activities of the school alongside pupils who do not have SEN.
- To reduce barriers to progress by providing high quality teaching across the school.
- 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 differentiated curriculum, to better respond to the four broad areas of need:
 1. Communication and interaction,
 2. Cognition and learning,
 3. Social, mental and emotional health,
 4. Sensory/physical.
- To request, monitor and respond to parent/carers’ * and pupils’ views in order to evidence high levels of confidence and partnership.
- To support all staff in meeting pupil needs by providing 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 (SEN) or a disability?

At our school we use the definition for SEN and for disability from the SEND Code of Practice (2014). This states that:

- 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’.

**Parent(s) throughout this document refers to parents, parent, carer or those with parental responsibility*

3) The kinds of special educational needs (SEN) for which provision is made at the school

- Children and young people with SEN have different needs, but the general presumption is that all children with SEN 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 SEN 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:
 - i) it would be unsuitable for the age, ability, aptitude or SEN of the child or young person, or
 - ii) 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 Head Teacher a copy of the EHCP and then consider their comments carefully before a final decision on placement is made.
- Parents of a child with an EHCP also have the right to seek a place at a special school if they consider that their child's needs can be better met in a 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 the pupil indicates that they have additional needs.

All or some of the above may apply and are carefully considered through systems set out in the school policies including SEN and Assessment Policies.

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 Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo) whose name is Lucy Seal and whose contact details are 02085501803
- Parents may also contact the SENCo or the Headteacher directly if they feel this is more appropriate.
- We value the opportunity to work closely with parents whose views and 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 differentiated 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. SEND Learning walks by senior leadership team and the SENCo
 3. ongoing assessment of progress made by pupils with SEND,
 4. work sampling and scrutiny of planning to ensure effective matching of work to pupil need,
 5. teacher meetings with the SENCo to provide advice and guidance on meeting the needs of pupils with SEND,
 6. pupil and parent feedback on the quality and effectiveness of interventions provided,
 7. 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 schools and increase their access to the taught curriculum.
 - All pupils have individual targets set in line with national outcomes or outcomes for a child's Educational Health Care Plan. Parents are informed of these via the reporting system and also at termly review meetings.
 - Pupils' attainments are tracked using the whole school tracking system and those failing to make expected thresholds of progress are identified quickly. These pupils are then discussed in progress

meetings each term that are undertaken between the class teacher and a member of the Senior Leadership team, SENCO and if appropriate, the pupil themselves.

- Additional action to increase the rate of progress will then be identified and recorded in teachers' planning which will include a review of the impact of the differentiated teaching being provided to the child. If required, provision to the teacher of additional strategies will be provided 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, parents will be informed that the school considers their child may require SEN support and their partnership sought in order to improve attainments and progress.
- Support will be guided by the process and expectations outlined in our SEND Provision Tracker
- Action relating to SEN support will follow an **assess, plan, do and review** model: Which is exemplified in the SEN Code of Practice 2014
 - i) Assess:** Data on the pupil held by the school will be collated by the class/SENCo in order to make an accurate assessment of the pupil's needs. Parents will be invited to this early discussion to support the identification of action to improve outcomes.
 - ii) 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.
 - iii) Do:** SEN 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 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.
 - iv) Review:** Progress towards these outcomes will be tracked and reviewed termly with the parents and the pupil.

If progress is limited despite the delivery of high-quality interventions, advice will always be sought from other agencies regarding strategies to best meet the specific needs of a pupil. This will only be undertaken after parental permission has been obtained and may include referral to:

1. Local Authority Support Services – including Educational Psychologists
 2. Specialists such as outreach support services (Specialist Education and Training support Service (SeaTSS) Speech Therapists and Occupational Therapists)
 3. Social Care Services – as discussed with parents
 4. Health partners such as School Nurse and Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Service (EWMHS)
- N.B. For a very small percentage of pupils, whose needs are significant and complex, and the SEN 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?

We gather pupil views through pupil conferencing and by their attendance at their termly review meetings (where able), reduce barriers to learning and social success. Each term information is 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' achievement levels, differentiating tasks 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. Pupils will have Individual Educational Plan targets related to their learning barriers which will be planned for to help the pupil succeed in overcoming their barriers.

- 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 school will be recorded and shared with parents.

9) How will parents know how well their child is doing?

- Attainment towards the identified outcomes will be shared with parents regularly through termly reviews and also through the school reporting system.
- A home-school communication sheet is sometimes a useful tool to help communication with school staff on a more regular basis (three times a week for Early Years and once a week for KS1/KS2)
- 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 that they feel they would like to share that could impact on their child's success. The class teacher should always be the first point of contact. Please contact the school office who will arrange this appointment for you. The contact number is 02085501803.

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

- Please look at the school website. It can be found at geariesprimary.sch.uk and includes links to websites and resources that we have found useful in supporting parents to help their child learn at home. (See school website)
- The class teacher or SENCo may also suggest additional ways of supporting your child's learning.
- If you have ideas on support that you would like to have access to or school events you could contribute to in order to further support your child's learning, please contact the SENCo.

11) How will the school evaluate the effectiveness of the SEN provision made for pupils?

The effectiveness of provision is tracked in different ways according to the nature of the support:

- Intervention programmes which are time-limited are evaluated at the end of the delivery. If there is no evidence that an intervention is effective, we will either adapt the intervention to more closely meet the child's needs or we will plan a different type of support.
- Termly reviews take place with class teachers, learning support practitioners (LSAs), Parents, SENCo, Outreach teachers (if appropriate) and children (if appropriate) to evaluate provision.
- School progress reviews (at least twice a year).
- Information gathered through observations, conversations with staff who are involved with the child, parents and pupil views.
- Assessments from other support services.

The success of the education offered to children with SEN is judged against the aims of the SEN policy. The SEN policy is reviewed each year and the SENCO's SEND Information Report will report on the implementation of the policy.

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, Health and Economic (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.
- Pupil and Parent views are sought through a variety of means these include parent workshops, parent consultation meetings, review meetings, school council, annual questionnaires to parents and pupils to inform the school development plan.
- The school has a pupil support adviser who provides 1 to 1 sessions or group intervention for children experiencing emotional and social difficulties.

- The school provides a programme of nurture activities e.g. cooking to support children's overall well-being.
- The school has a parent support adviser to offer advice to parents who may be experiencing difficulties with managing their children's behaviour. She also runs a parent gym course which offers advice and support to parents on positive ways to support their children.

13) Pupils with medical needs

- Pupils with medical needs will be provided with a detailed Individual Health Care Plan, compiled in partnership with the school nurse and parents and if appropriate, the pupil themselves. In some case this will be an integral part of a statutory Educational Health Care Plan.
- Staff who volunteer to administer and supervise medications, will complete training overseen by a relevant health care professional such as a school nurse. This training will be recorded in the Health Care Plan.
- All medicine administration procedures adhere to the Department of Education (DfE) guidelines included within 'supporting pupils at school with medical conditions' (DfE) 2014 and identified in the School Medicine Administration Policy.

14) What specialist services are available at the school?

The school has access to a range of specialist support that are identified in (6) above.

15) What training do the staff supporting children with SEND undertake?

Staff who support children with SEND undertake a range of training – school based, training provided by outreach teams and attendance at courses. In the last two years all staff have received training on;

- How to support pupils on the autistic spectrum – delivered by outreach teachers
- Mastery approach in mathematics and how to support SEND children - school based inset
- Attending speech and language sessions with children
- Attending occupational therapy sessions with children
- Monthly practitioner training sessions - this year the focus has been marking and feedback and assessments of children with SEND.

The SENCO has been in position since 2017 and has an MA in Equality and Diversity in Education and the National Award for SENCOs.

- The school has regular visits from an LA Educational Psychologist, SEN specialist teachers from the Early Years Advisory Support Service (EYASS) and Specialist Education and Training Support Service (SEaTSS) who provide advice to staff to support the success and progress of individual pupils.
- The school receives visits from the Speech and Language Therapist who provides advice on assessing and planning for children with EHC Plans. Programmes planned by the therapist are then delivered by a learning support practitioner.
- The school receives visits from the Occupational Therapist who provides advice on assessing and planning for children who need support. Programmes planned by the therapist are then delivered by a learning support practitioner.
- The Governor with specific responsibility for SEN has participated in SEN Governor training.

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.
- Children with SEND and EHCP's are able to attend school trips and before and after school clubs through adaptations to the provision e.g. providing extra adults to support children on trips or during the clubs – parents may be asked to accompany their child on a trip alongside the supporting adult if the school feel this is necessary to ensure the child can be safe.

17) How accessible is the school?

In the last three years the following adaptations have been made to the school setting:

- Ramps have been built to support wheelchair users.
- Specialist equipment has been bought (hoist, changing bed, therapy bench) to enable medical needs to be met.
- A lift has been installed in the new section of the building, along with an evacuation chair.

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 pupils' transition. These include on entry:

- A planned introduction programme is delivered in the Summer term to support transfer for pupils starting school in September.
- 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.
- For pupils who are likely to find starting school or moving schools difficult transition visits are organised prior to the child starting so they can get used to the environment and routines.
- Some pupils may need a slower transition period on starting school, this may include starting with half days and increasing the time gradually.

19) Transition to the next school, preparation for adulthood and independence

The transition programme in place for pupils provides a number of opportunities for pupils and parents to meet staff in the new school.

- The annual review in Y5 for pupils with an EHCP begins the process where parents are supported to make decisions regarding secondary school choice. 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 secondary schools, the SENCos of both schools meet to discuss the needs of pupils with SEN in order to ensure a smooth transition.
- Children with EHC plans can be provided with extra visits to either nursery or reception classes or to secondary school.
- Children with an EHCP will be asked by the borough to select their secondary school place at the end of the Summer term that they are in Year 5.

20) 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:

- A proportion of the funds allocated per pupil to the school to provide for their education called the Age Weighted Pupil Unit.
- The Notional SEN budget: this is a fund devolved to schools to support them to meet the needs of pupils with SEND.
- For those pupils with the most complex needs, the school may be allocated additional educational needs funding from the Local Authorities High Needs SEN 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:
 - Targeted differentiation to increase access to text (accessible text, IT eg. read aloud software, different recording strategies, additional time etc.)
 - In class, additional adult support aimed at increasing skills in specific area of weakness (learning behaviours, organisation, etc)
 - Out of class support (relationship building, social, emotional skill development)

- Small group tuition to encourage catch up (subject or targeted at additional need)
- 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)
- Provision of specialist resources or equipment (use of ICT, sloping board, electronic versions of text etc)
- Partnership working with other settings (shared resources eg; shared expertise: support from local special school and outreach teams to improve inclusion:)
- Use of specific environments in school such as work-stations, nurture groups, sensory rooms and alternative learning environments (Haven and Training room).
- 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)
- Access to support from in-school sources eg learning mentors (peer or adult)
- Implementation of strategies from support agencies eg Behaviour Support/Educational Welfare Support

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 have been adopted from local authority care or whose parents are in the Armed Services. The deployment of this funding is published on the school website.

21) How are decisions made about how much support each child will receive?

- For pupils with SEN but without an EHCP, planning the support provided is led by the Senior Management of the school and the SENCO advising the class teacher. Parents are involved in this through parent meetings as outlined in the SEN policy. Deployment of funds is overseen by the Governing Body

For pupils with an EHCP, this decision will be reached in agreement with parents when the EHC Plan is being produced or at an annual review of an EHC Plan. The Local Authority administers and delegates the High Needs Funding which resources the EHC Plan.

22) 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,
- During parents' evenings,
- Termly review meetings to evaluate a child's individual education plan.
- Meetings with support and external agencies.

23) 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 see the school Complaints Policy on the school website

If we cannot resolve your concerns informally, the school's complaint procedure is published on the school website. You can also contact the Redbridge Information Advice Support Service on: 020 8708 8922 / rias@redbridge.gov.uk

24) Support services for parents of pupils with SEN include:

- The Redbridge Information and Advice Support Service (RIASS) offers impartial advice and support to parents and carers of all children and young people with SEND
<https://find.redbridge.gov.uk/kb5/redbridge/fsd/service.page?id=ksJVHmXNIE8>
- For parents who are unhappy with the Local Authority or school responses to their child's SEND, may wish to contact the Local Authority SEN Mediation Service. Parents may also 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. Information on this process is available here <https://www.gov.uk/courts-tribunals/first-tier-tribunal-special-educational-needs-and-disability>

24) Information on where the Local Authority's Local Offer can be found.

<https://find.redbridge.gov.uk/kb5/redbridge/fsd/localoffer.page?localofferchannel=0>

References

- *Schedule 1 of The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014.*
- *The SEND Code of Practice (January 2015) provides statutory guidance on duties, policies and procedures relating to Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014 and associated regulations*
- *Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions Sept 2014.*
- *Glossary (A glossary of SEND terms is included in the appendices of the SEND Code of Practice)*