

# OAC Special Educational Needs Policy

2025-2026

## Abbreviations used in the policy

SEN	Special Educational Needs
SENDCo	Special Educational Needs and Disability Co-ordinator
ILP	Individual Learning Plan
PCR	Person Centred Review
NSPCC	National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
EHCP	Education Health Care Plan
Wave 1	Quality First Teaching provided too all children at the school
Wave 2	Intervention level
Wave 3	Where schools seek the help of external support services

### **General information**

Assistant Principal for Inclusion: Zahra-Mae Mohamed

SENDCo: Laura McDowell

Deputy SENDCo: Kimberly Money

SEND Assistant: Catherine Lomas-Fowler

**A copy of this policy is available for all parents who request one from the school office. All parents/carers whose children are on the school SEND register can access a copy of this policy and have the opportunity to read through it with the class teacher or SENDCO if requested.**

Oasis Clarksfield is committed to providing an appropriate and high-quality education to all our students. We believe that all children, including those identified as having special educational needs, have a common entitlement to a broad and balanced academic and social curriculum, which is accessible to them and enables them to be fully included in all aspects of school life. We believe that all children should be equally valued in school. We will strive to eliminate prejudice and discrimination, and to develop an environment where all children can flourish and feel safe.

Oasis Clarksfield is committed to inclusion. Part of the academy's strategic planning for improvement is to develop cultures, policies and practices that include all learners. We aim to engender a sense of community and belonging, and to offer new opportunities to learners who may have experienced previous difficulties. This does not mean that we will treat all learners in the same way, but that we will respond to learners in ways which take account of their varied life experiences and needs.

This policy describes the way we meet the needs of children who experience barriers to their learning and the steps we take to remove those.

**Aims:**

**All children to:**

1. Be happy and feel secure.
2. Be included.
3. Achieve the very best of which they are capable.
4. Have access to a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum.
5. Demonstrate personal development and growth.
6. Make good progress from their starting point
7. Experience wider learning opportunities leading to greater independence.
8. Make effective independent decisions.
9. Children to have the school's resources targeted at their greatest need.

**All staff to:**

1. Form positive and impactful relationships with all individuals.
2. Remove barriers to allow all children to access the full curriculum and make progress and attain alongside and in line with their peers.
3. Identify children with Special Educational Needs and or Disabilities (SEND) and ensure the correct provision is made in accordance with the 0-25 Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEN) Code of Practice, September 2014.
4. Have an ongoing commitment to creating the right environment, effective adaptations and scaffolding for all pupils to thrive, we aim to reduce the need for drastic adjustments to the curriculum.
5. Attend/ organise Person Centred Review meetings.
6. Be well equipped to identify and meet needs.
7. Identify children's needs early.

**National Curriculum Inclusion Statement points out:**

- All teachers should set suitable learning challenges.
- Respond to the diversity of learners needs.
- Remove barriers to learning and assessment.

**SENDCo to:**

- Be dedicated to the ongoing development of an inclusive curriculum and therapeutic environment for pupils with SEND which will then be of benefit to all pupils
- Prioritise and invest in bespoke training for staff
- Plan carefully for smooth and effective transitions at all stages of education
- Plan effective interventions
- Evaluate and revise interventions regularly.
- Attend/organise annual review meetings each year for children who have a statement of Special Educational needs or an EHC PLAN (Education and Health Care plan).

- Attend/ organise Person Centred Review meetings.

**All parents/carers to:**

- Be kept informed at all times.
- To have the opportunity to be fully involved.

**Pupil involvement:**

We recognise that all pupils have the right to be involved in making decisions and exercising choice as stated in the code of practice. Where appropriate all pupils are involved in monitoring and reviewing their progress. Pupils may be invited to their Person-Centred Review. During these meetings we endeavour to fully involve all pupils by encouraging them to:

- state their views about their education and learning during the review process or during pupil voice conferences
- share their individual targets
- self-review their progress and set new targets

**OBJECTIVES**

1. Be happy and feel secure.

- Provide a therapeutic, secure and caring environment.
- Use positive and supportive language.
- Use praise to celebrate achievement.
- Set suitable learning challenges.
- Provide opportunities for parents and children to celebrate achievement together

2. Be included.

- All children to be given a sense of belonging whatever their social, ethnic or cultural background.
- Children to be fully included by compensating for their needs.
- Wherever possible children with sensory impairments to be given access to all areas of the curriculum.
- Wherever possible children with physical disabilities to experience a broad and balanced curriculum.
- Provide a range of resources to suit individual or group needs e.g. speech games.
- Adapt and scaffold class teaching to enable all children to achieve their full potential.

3. Achieve the very best of which they are capable.

- Use effective assessment and rigorous monitoring
- Provide high quality learning opportunities and materials.
- Use positive and supportive language with pupils.
- Intervene early to promote progress.
- Make effective use of outside agencies.

- Liaise effectively with parents and carers.

#### 4. Have access to a broad balanced and relevant curriculum

- Plan adaptively and set targets for individuals and groups (ILP's, recommendations from professionals).
- Provide support in an effective manner.
- Involve parents by providing formal and informal information.

#### 5. Demonstrate personal development and growth.

- Use praise and positive language to reinforce all aspects of personal development e.g. learning to curb a temper, eating with a knife and fork.
- Celebrate all achievements.
- Involve parents in celebrating success and achievement.
- Recognise and celebrate personal achievements as a whole school.
- Personal development targets to be included on Individual Targets Plans wherever appropriate. (All children to contribute to their targets through a person-centred approach)
- Use effective personal and social assessments and record sheets to show development and growth.

#### 6. Make good progress

- Set SMART targets which are reviewed regularly.
- Use appropriate teaching styles to meet the needs of the children.
- Encourage parents to be involved.
- Celebrate achievement in all areas.

#### 7. Experience wider activities leading to greater independence.

- Children to work in a variety of different groups and with the opportunity to work with partners and friends of all abilities.
- Appropriate use of support staff.
- Children to have individual responsibilities in school/classroom.

#### 8. Make effective independent decisions.

- All children to be given the opportunity to make choices regarding certain activities – guide them by making sensitive suggestions.
- Increase children's responsibilities in school where they can feel secure in their decisions.

#### 9. Be well equipped to identify and meet needs.

- Liaise regularly with parents and keep up to date with home situations/health etc.
- Each member of teaching staff to be given a guidance file containing articles, notes etc. to be built up to help with identification of particular difficulties and with ideas for teaching activities. This will be continually updated.
- Effective communication with SENDCO and outside agencies to keep up to date with new developments.

#### 10. Identify children's needs early.

- Foundation staff, Pastoral Support Assistant and Family Safeguarding Officer to gain early information from parents on preschool visits.
- Early years staff, Family Safeguarding Officer and SENDCO to liaise with Health Visitors, Additional Needs team etc. about difficulties in pre-school.
- Use of Foundation Stage Profile, to highlight areas of weakness at an early stage.
- Regular communication with parents to ensure any concerns are noted/discussed and addressed.

#### 11. Plan effective interventions.

- All ILP targets to be clear, broken down, achievable and specific. (SMART targets)
- All planned interventions to be known to all staff working with the child e.g. teaching assistants.
- Parents/carers to be seen as partners working alongside teachers to create an effective learning intervention.
- Good communication with parents, outside agencies and SENDCo.
- Where appropriate children to discuss their future targets and celebrate in their own achievements through PCR meetings.

#### 12. Evaluate and revise interventions regularly.

- Good communication between Teacher and Learning Support Assistants etc. to ensure information about targets/children's progress is monitored.
- Interventions to be reviewed and evaluated on a half termly basis. Future planning to be based on this information.
- Progress to be regularly shared and discussed with parents/carers through parent evenings/ PCR meetings.
- Children to be involved where appropriate in discussing and evaluating their progress.

#### 13. Parents/carers to be kept informed at all times.

- Class teacher to keep parents/carers fully informed from the initial concern.
- Information to be exchanged in a sensitive way.

#### 14. Parents/carers to have the opportunity to be fully involved.

- Parents/carers and teachers to work in partnership when setting targets for ILPs.
- Where possible to work in partnership with the school and outside agencies to meet the targets on the ILP.
- To jointly celebrate success however small.
- To understand and be involved at all stages of SEN according to the Code of Practice (2015)

## **Placing children on the school's register of Special Education Needs.**

- Children whose prior attainment is low enough to cause serious concern will be recorded as having low prior attainment and noted as Early Years Concern/School Concern. Their progress in the Early Years will be closely monitored. Where provision is made for them which is additional to and different from that which is made for all pupils, they will be registered at Wave 2 support and have an ILP.
- Where, after discussion with relevant staff, parents/carers, outside agencies and the child as appropriate, it is decided that additional provision is required, the child will be registered at Wave 3 and an ILP drawn up by the class teacher in liaison with the SENDCo, the parents/carers and where appropriate the child.
- The SENDCo alongside the senior leadership team will maintain a record of children whose prior and current attainment gives cause for concern but whose needs are met within the school's differentiated curriculum planning. These children may not be registered at Wave 2 or 3 but their progress will be closely monitored. High quality differentiated planning, record keeping including children's profiles and portfolios will demonstrate children's progress and value added.

### **When a child is identified as having SEN, the Class Teacher and SENDCo will:**

- Ensure that the child's parents/carers are aware of the local authority's Local Offer and any appropriate services.
- Ensure that parents are kept informed from the start of any SEN provision and notify any changes.
- Use information arising from the child's previous educational experience to provide starting points for the development of an appropriate curriculum for the child.
- Identify and focus attention on the child's skills and highlight areas for early action to support the child within the class through a person-centred approach.
- Use the curricular and baseline assessment process to allow the child to show what they know, understand and can do and celebrate their strengths, as well as to identify any learning difficulties.
- Ensure that ongoing observation and assessment provide regular feedback to teachers and parents/carers about the child's achievements and experiences and that the outcomes of such assessment form the basis for planning the next steps of the child's learning.
- Involve parents in developing and implementing a joint learning approach at home and in school.

### **Deciding to place a child at Wave 2 or Wave 3 Support**

The triggers for intervention through Wave 2 or Wave 3 support could be the teacher's or others' concern, underpinned by evidence, about a child who despite receiving differentiated learning opportunities:

- Makes little or no progress even when teaching approaches are targeted particularly in a child's identified area of weakness.

- Shows signs of difficulty in developing literacy or mathematical skills which result in poor attainment in some curriculum areas.
- Presents persistent emotional or behavioural difficulties which are not met by the behavioural management techniques usually employed in the school.
- Has sensory or physical problems and continues to make little or no progress despite the provision of specialist equipment.
- Has communication and/or interaction difficulties and continues to make little or no progress despite the provision of a differentiated curriculum.

### **What is adequate progress for children with SEN?**

Adequate progress can be defined in a number of ways. It might, for instance, be progress which:

- All children at the school, whether SEN or not, are expected to make good or better progress over a year from their starting points.
- Children on the SEN register can be tracked on a previous year's tracking sheet, which is deemed to be their academic stage by the Class Teacher and/or the SENDCo.
- Closes the attainment gap between the child and their year group.
- Prevents the attainment gap growing wider.
- Is similar to that of children starting from the same attainment baseline, but less than that of the majority of children.
- Matches or betters the child's previous rate of progress.
- Ensures access to the full curriculum.
- Demonstrates an improvement in self-help, social or personal skills.
- Demonstrates improvements in the child's behaviour.
- Demonstrates that a higher level of independence is achieved.

When a class teacher or the SENDCo identifies a child with SEN the class teacher should provide interventions that are additional to or different from those provided as part of the school's usual differentiated curriculum. We provide quality first teaching (Wave 1) at Clarksfield Primary School and if children are not making progress, then intervention at Wave 2 will be introduced. Intervention at Wave 2 does not mean your child will be placed on the SEN register.

If after suitable provision has been made and reviewed, **adequate progress** is not observed the SENDCo will consider a move to Wave 3 support. This is characterised by greater involvement of external agencies.

### **Wave 3 Support**

Where schools seek the help of external support services drawing on a range of expertise. It has always been our policy to work closely with services such as speech and language therapists, educational psychologists and occupational therapists. Those services will need to see the child's records in order to establish which strategies have already been employed

and which targets have been set and achieved. They can then advise on new and appropriate targets for the child's ILP and on accompanying strategies. The targets set may require specialist assessment arrangements to measure the child's progress. If so, outside specialists, for example educational psychologists may be required for this.

The SENDCo will liaise with the educational psychologist making sure that the Psychology Service gives appropriate advice and support to both parents and colleagues. The SENDCo can also make referrals to Healthy Young Minds where it is appropriate and with the permission from parents.

The SENDCo and class teacher, together with curriculum, English and maths leads and external specialists, should consider a range of different teaching approaches and appropriate equipment and teaching materials, including the use of information technology. The external specialist may act in an advisory capacity or provide additional specialist assessment or be involved in teaching the child directly. In some instances, improved management or alternative arrangements based on advice from health professionals may considerably reduce the child's special educational needs.

The resulting new provision map for the child should set out fresh strategies for supporting the child's progress. Although developed with the help of outside specialists, the strategies specified in the provision map should usually be implemented, at least in part and as far as possible, in the normal classroom setting. The delivery of the interventions recorded in the provision maps continues to be the responsibility of the SENDCO with close liaison with the class teacher.

If the SENDCo and the external specialist consider that the information gathered about the child is insufficient, and that more detailed advice must be obtained from other outside professionals, then the consent of the child's parents must be sought.

Where professionals and SENDCo agrees an EHCP (Education Health Care Plan) can be applied for with the parent's consent.

For more information on EHCP please visit:

Oldham: EHCP

[https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/200368/children\\_and\\_young\\_people\\_with\\_special\\_educational\\_needs\\_and\\_disabilities\\_local\\_offer/1442/education\\_health\\_and\\_care\\_plans\\_ehc\\_plans](https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/200368/children_and_young_people_with_special_educational_needs_and_disabilities_local_offer/1442/education_health_and_care_plans_ehc_plans)

Oldham SENDIASS/ POINT

<https://www.point-send.co.uk/Pages/Category/oldham-sendiass>

This policy is due for review in September 2026.