

## **SEND INFORMATION REPORT**

***At Blackwell First School we aim to educate the whole child and to ensure children are happy, healthy and fulfil their potential in terms of the development of skills for life, social and moral values and academic success.***

### **VALUES**

**\*Respectful and responsible citizens    \*Competent and confident learners    \*Aspirational Individuals**

### **KEY COMPETENCIES**

**\*Co-operation    \*Communication    \*Independence    \*Resilience    \*Problem solving**

We recognise that children all make progress at different times and at different speeds. For any child who may have difficulties making progress in any area of their development, we endeavour to ensure that we provide as much of the right support as we can to help them to be happy, healthy and fulfil their potential.

The information included in this report is a description of the systems and resources we have in place within Blackwell First School to help us achieve this aim.

### **INTRODUCTION**

In line with Worcestershire Local Authority (LA) maintained schools, as part of Worcestershire Hills Trust, we adopt the LA's approach to meeting the needs of pupils with Special Education Needs or Disabilities (SEND), including Looked After children, and are supported by the LA to ensure that all pupils, regardless of their specific needs, make the best possible progress in school. The LA Offer for SEND is available at [www.worcestershirelocaloffer.org.uk](http://www.worcestershirelocaloffer.org.uk). This sets out the provision that is available for children with SEND in Worcestershire. All schools are supported to be as inclusive as possible, with needs of pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities being met in a mainstream setting wherever possible.

We have a governor led nursery at the school, **Blackwell First School Nursery and Forest School**, for children aged 2+ years which follows the principles as stated in this report for those children with SEND.

### **WHAT TYPE OF SEND DO WE PROVIDE FOR?**

Blackwell First School is a fully inclusive school and educates children with varying levels of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. These include the four broad 'areas of need' outlined in the Special Education Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0 – 25 years, being Communication and Interaction, Cognition and Learning, Social, Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties and Sensory and Physical Needs.

### **HOW DO WE IDENTIFY CHILDREN WHO MAY HAVE A SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEED OR DISABILITY?**

At Blackwell First School children are identified as having SEND through a variety of different ways including:

- Liaison with previous school/nursery
- Regular assessments carried out by the class teacher such as: observations, learning assessments, behaviour monitoring
- Pupil Progress meetings with the class teacher, head teacher and SENDCo (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator) are carried out termly and children who are performing significantly below age expected levels are identified
- Concerns raised by parents
- Liaison with SENDCO and external agencies
- Assessments and observations carried out by specialist teachers following parental consent

## **HOW DO WE WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH SEND?**

Working in partnership with parents is key in the development of the whole child. We actively encourage parents to be involved in their child's education through:

- Termly parents consultations with the class teacher
- Termly reports
- Annual report
- Informal discussions with class teacher, SENDCO and head teacher – 'open-door' policy
- Parent information meeting with the child's new teacher prior to the start of a new academic year
- Telephone contact
- Email communication with SENDCO ([sendco@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:sendco@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk))
- Individual Provision Maps – reviewed at least termly
- Meetings with outside agencies
- Termly review meetings with SENDCO for those children with an Education and Health Care Plan
- Annual review meetings with SENDCO and head teacher with an Education and Health Care Plan
- Sharing relevant information and support regarding how parents can support their child at home
- Parental involvement within school

If parents would like additional support or advice from the Local Authority, they are signposted to SENDIASS – Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information and Support Service <https://www.hwsendiass.co.uk/>.

## **HOW DO WE ENSURE CHILDREN WITH SEND ARE INVOLVED WITH THEIR LEARNING NEEDS AND PROGRESS?**

All children, regardless of SEND, are aware of their next steps and all children have targets. These are shared regularly with children during lesson time (e.g. writing bookmarks), at the start of, during and on completion of intervention group work and on termly and annual reports. Those children who have Individual Provision Maps have additional targets shared, worked upon and reviewed with their class teacher and other members of staff who may be providing additional support. All children know how well they are doing through verbal and written feedback and self and peer assessment. If appropriate, children may be involved in review meetings either through the completion of a questionnaire or in attendance.

## **HOW DO WE ASSESS AND REVIEW THE PROGRESS OF CHILDREN WITH SEND?**

In accordance with the SEND Code of Practice (2014), the process for responding to children identified as needing additional support, follows the four-step cycle called the Graduated Response.

- **ASSESS** – The child will be assessed thoroughly to identify the key area of need and 'next steps' targets will be produced.
- **PLAN** - Provision needed to support the child to achieve their 'next steps' targets will be carefully planned to scaffold the child's learning towards their goal. This may be in the form of: intervention; curriculum adaptations; resourcing and additional support. If the support is through intervention (individual or small group work over and above what is offered to the class), this is delivered by skilled teachers/ teaching assistants.
- **DO** – The support planned is put in place and monitored over a period of time leading to review.
- **REVIEW** – Following the additional support, it will be reviewed against the child's targets in order to consider next steps.

Parents and staff (and children if appropriate) work together as part of this assessment and review cycle during parent consultations, termly reviews and additional meetings where necessary.

The above is in addition to the school's procedures for assessment which are also used to assess children with SEND, such as: Teacher Assessments; DfE tests and Pupil Progress meetings.

## **WHAT ARRANGEMENTS DO WE MAKE FOR SUPPORTING CHILDREN IN MOVING BETWEEN PHASES OF EDUCATION?**

In order to ensure a successful transition at all stages of their educational journey, school has the following procedures in place:

- Nursery visits for preschool children, including some home visits for those children joining Blackwell Nursery (outside agencies will often be involved in these for SEND with head teacher and SENDCO involvement);
- Stay and Play sessions the term before children start Nursery;
- Additional transition visits specifically for SEND children in preschool and at each year group change;
- Phased starts if appropriate i.e. reduced timetable;
- Additional visits for Year 4 children on transition to Middle School accompanied by SENDCO;
- SENDCO meets with Middle School SENDCO and new teachers;
- Detailed documentation to support children transferring to Middle School with SEND;
- Resources in place such as photobooks; detailed transition plans/ packages and lengthy transition support for individuals and
- Split placements for children requiring a phased move to a non- mainstream setting.

#### **HOW DO WE APPROACH THE TEACHING OF CHILDREN WITH SEND?**

All children benefit from inclusive Quality First Teaching. This teaching is regularly monitored and curriculum adaptations are made to meet the needs of all children. For those requiring additional support, additional resources, strategies and intervention (small group or one to one) are in place, for example: Social skills; Proprioceptor; Better Reading; Precision Teaching; Specific Numeracy and Literacy intervention; Relationship Based Play; Speech and Language; Lego Therapy; Gross Motor programmes and Sensory intervention. Children with more complex social communication and emotional difficulties may have access to a small group provision to enable them to continue to make progress in a mainstream setting and for non-national curriculum needs to be met as outlined on EHCPs or IPMs.

In addition, developing happy and healthy individuals is key to the school's vision. Supporting mental well-being underpins the school's curriculum and whole school approach to teaching and learning and the school's Relationship and Behaviour policy. All teaching staff have received emotion coaching training, attachment training and growth mindset training meaning they have the knowledge and skills to improve emotional, mental and social development of pupils with SEND.

#### **WHAT ADAPTIONS MAY BE MADE TO THE CURRICULUM AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT TO SUPPORT CHILDREN WITH SEND?**

Our classrooms are adapted to support children with SEND through offering a calm and routined environment. Resources, such as sloping desks for children with fine and gross motor needs; weighted shoulder supports for children with sensory needs; transparent overlays to support children with dyslexic tendencies and visual timetables to support children with social communication needs are readily available. All classrooms are attachment friendly i.e. photographs of key adults displayed and children's seating positions are carefully considered.

Most children access the National Curriculum at their broad age appropriate expectations and curriculum adaptations are made, including small group and individual support, to enable this to be successful. For some children with SEND, accessing the National Curriculum at a lower level or significantly lower level is appropriate. In these cases the curriculum is highly tailored to an individual's needs in line with recommendations from outside agencies.

#### **WHAT EXPERTISE AND STAFF TRAINING IS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT CHILDREN WITH SEND?**

- Leadership: SENDCO with national SENDCO qualification and part of SENDCO cluster group led by an experienced Educational Psychologist, who also trains staff across schools;

- Teaching staff: extensive experience and training amongst teaching staff working with children with a variety of SEND, such as ASD; ADHD; Speech and Language; Dyslexia; Attachment disorders; Dyspraxia and Moderate Learning Difficulties;
- The head teacher, deputy head teacher, SENDCO and Early Years trained in ELKAN, Speech and Language support for 5 – 11s, and have trained all staff members on key strategies.
- Key members of staff trained in trauma friendly policy
- Teaching staff trained by specialist autism teacher on Autism Friendly Classrooms
- Teaching Assistants: extensive experience amongst support staff, such as Better Reading; Precision Teaching; Speech and Language; Social Skills; Relationship Based Play and Signalong;
- Educational Psychologist training for all teaching staff on Emotion Coaching; Attachment Theory and Growth Mindset;
- Teacher and Teaching Assistant performance reviews ensure high expectations for support provided for children with SEND and
- Continued liaison with Health Agencies including Community Paediatrician; SALT; OT and Family Support for further advice and support.

#### **HOW DO WE EVALUATE AND REPORT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION MADE FOR CHILDREN WITH SEND?**

Through termly Whole School Provision Maps, the SENDCO and head teacher monitor trends in intervention and provision for children with SEND. Children's progress towards targets influences this evaluation. In light of this, further staff training may be appropriate or a change in provision or advice from outside agencies is sought. The SEND governor meets with the SENDCO termly and she also reports at governor meetings termly on the effectiveness of provision and progress of children with SEND.

#### **HOW DO WE ENABLE CHILDREN WITH SEND TO ENGAGE IN WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES?**

All children are treated equally and access whole school activities through curriculum adaptations as described. Risk assessments may be written to support access. Children of all needs access: educational visits; special events; extra-curricular opportunities and residential trips. Unless a child with significant medical needs is unable to access an opportunity at the advice of a professional, all children engage with activities at their level. In light of health and safety considerations, a child who is unable to access an activity will be provided with an alternative.

#### **WHAT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE FOR EMOTIONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT?**

Children access a daily act of Collect Worship focusing on themes relating to universal values education. All classes follow a structured PSHE programme in line with the 2020 statutory guidance for Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education. Lessons take place weekly in addition to weekly Philosophy and Forest School sessions.

Developing happy and healthy individuals is key to the school's vision. Developing and supporting mental well-being underpins the school's curriculum, the whole school approach to teaching and learning and the school's Relationship and Behaviour policy which promote good moral values through restorative sanctions. All teaching staff have received emotion coaching training, attachment theory training and growth mindset training meaning they have the knowledge and skills to improve the emotional, mental and social development of all pupils including those with SEND.

Where additional support is required, the school provides intervention in the form of: Social skills groups; Play leaders; Relationship Based Play and lunchtime and playtime support. Outside agencies also support children with social emotional needs such as: Educational Psychologist; Early Intervention and Integrated Services for Looked After Children.

The school adheres to their Anti-Bullying Policy which outlines a consistent school response to any bullying incidents that may occur. The school takes all forms of bullying seriously and intervene to prevent incidents from taking place. During collective worship, PSHE and Philosophy lessons, the children learn about bullying and how to keep themselves and others happy and safe, including online.

## **HOW DO WE INVOLVE OTHER BODIES AND SUPPORT SERVICES IN MEETING THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN WITH SEND AND SUPPORTING THEIR FAMILIES?**

The school regularly liaises with outside agencies where relevant professionals are identified to provide support for individuals. This includes: Educational Psychology; Learning Support Team; OT; Speech and Language; Complex Communication Needs Team; Integrated Service for Looked After Children; Health; Social Care and Early Help. School acts on advice and recommendations as needed.

## **WHAT COMPLAINTS PROCEDURES ARE IN PLACE FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH SEND?**

Any complaints should in the first instance be directed to the class teacher who will keep the head teacher and SENDCO informed of SEND complaints. In the event of the situation not being resolved, complaints should then be referred to the head teacher and the school's 'Complaints Procedure' should be acted on if necessary.

**For further information on SEND provision at Blackwell First School and Nursery, please refer to the SEND Policy.**

Named contacts for SEND:

- Head teacher- Anna Moss
- SENDCo – Helen Townsend

*Reviewed August 2025*