

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **How will I know if my son/daughter needs any extra help?**

As soon as your child enters school, they will be continuously monitored by teaching staff. If the teacher has any concerns, they will contact you. We know when a child needs help if:

- Concerns are raised by parents /carers, teachers or the child
- Limited progress is made
- There is a change in the pupil's behaviour or progress

### **What should I do if I think my son/daughter may have special educational needs?**

Speak first to your child's teacher and explain your concerns. Further advice can be sought from the SENDCO, Mrs J Mullin.

### **How will school support my child?**

Sacred Heart Catholic School is an inclusive school and offers a range of provision to support children with SEND including:

Social Skills programmes/support including strategies to enhance self-esteem

Access to a supportive environment

Strategies/programmes to support speech and language

Strategies to reduce anxiety/promote emotional wellbeing

Strategies to support/develop reading and writing skills

Strategies to support/develop maths skills

Strategies/support to develop independent learning

Support/supervision at unstructured times of the day including personal care

### **How will the curriculum be matched to my child's needs?**

When a pupil has been identified as having additional needs, their work will be differentiated by the class teacher to enable them to access the curriculum more easily. Teaching assistants (TAs) may be allocated to work with the pupil within a small focussed group or on a 1:1 basis to target more specific needs. If a child has been identified as having a special need, a Person Centred Support Plan will be created. Targets will be set according to the child's area of need. Support plans will be monitored regularly by the class teacher and the SENCO and they will be shared with the parents.

### **What support will there be for my child's overall well-being?**

School offers a variety of pastoral support for children who are encountering emotional difficulties. The class teachers, team leaders, SENCO, Pastoral Manager, Deputy Headteacher and Headteacher are available to discuss issues and concerns with pupils and parents. Interventions will be offered where it is felt a child needs more support.

### **How will I know how my son/daughter is doing and how will you help me to support my child's learning?**

There are three opportunities during the year to meet with the teacher and discuss progress at parents' evenings. Some children with additional needs may require more regular meetings with the SENDCO and other agencies. Teachers will be able to advise parents on ways to support their child. If an outside agency has been involved with a child, a report will usually be provided which will contain strategies to support the child at home.

### **What specialist services and expertise are available and accessed by school?**

School Liaises with a wide range of professionals including the following:

Educational Psychologist, Gilbrook Outreach worker, ASC support team, Speech and Language Therapist, CAMHS, School Nurse, Community Paediatrician and SENAAT.

### **Who is the School SEND Governor?**

Our SEND Governor is Liz Neale.

### **How are staff in school helped to work with children who have SEND?**

All teachers have qualified teacher status (QTS). The school has a training plan for all staff to improve the teaching and learning of pupils, including those with SEND. This includes whole school training on SEND issues such as autistic spectrum condition, dyslexia, behaviour management and speech and language support.

### **How will my child be included in activities outside the classroom including school trips?**

Your child will be able to access all activities. If your child has medical or physical needs this will be referenced in the school's risk assessment and procedures will be put in place to enable the child to participate. If it is deemed that an intensive level of support is required, 1:1 support will be made available and/or a parent/carer will be invited to accompany their child during the activity. Any necessary medication will be taken and administered.

### **How accessible is Sacred Heart School?**

As a school, we are happy to discuss individual access requirements. Both buildings have wheelchair access and a disabled toilet. For children with medical and physical needs school will seek advice from a specialist teacher and the occupational therapy service.

### **How will you prepare and support my child to join your school, transfer to a new school or the next stage of education?**

In the summer term, new parents will be invited for a meeting that gives parents/carers the opportunity to discuss any additional needs with the class teacher. Foundation 1 pupils have the opportunity to visit their class. Each year pupils visit their next teacher in class for a short session. Year 6 pupils visit their chosen secondary school in the summer term.

Some children with additional needs may require a transition programme prepared by the class teacher or the SENCO. In addition, an extra visit can be arranged for specific pupils who are moving to a new secondary school.

Moving classes at the end of each school year:

- All support plans and any other documentation regarding the children are passed to the new class teacher at the end of the summer term.

### Moving to Secondary School

- SENDCOs from the secondary schools that the children will be attending meet with Year 6 teachers and the SENDCO in order to discuss the specific needs of individual children. If a child requires more than one transition visit this will be arranged at this time.

### Moving to another school

- The SENDCO will contact the school to ensure that they will know about any special arrangements or support your child needs.
- All records including support plans will be passed to the new school.