



**SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND  
DISABILITY (SEND)  
INFORMATION REPORT  
2020-21**

# **Thistly Meadow Primary School**

## **SEND Information Report 2020-21**

### **Our policies for the identification and assessment of pupils with SEND**

The responsibility for the initial identification of a child with SEND will usually rest with the class teacher. The use of informal and formal assessments might identify a particular need. The class teacher will complete an initial concerns form, gather evidence and in discussion with the SENCO, they will look at the child's needs to identify barriers to learning. At this point the following will be taken into consideration:

- a. Liaison with previous/pre-school setting.
- b. Parents/carers concerns.
- c. Observations by the class teacher.
- d. Baseline assessments and other continual assessment procedures.
- e. Identification through involvement with outside agencies.

Staff members work closely with parents/carers to build up a complete picture of the child's needs, so that appropriate support can be put in place.

**Our SEND policy can be found on the school's website.**

### **Consulting parents and carers of pupils with SEND and involving them in the education of their child**

At Thistly Meadow it is vitally important that home and school work closely together. Our strong partnership enables us to share our expectations, develop our understanding of pupils needs and celebrate their successes. Parents are always informed about their child's learning and parents of children with an IEP are invited to review them twice a year.

### **Supporting parents and carers who have a concern about their child's learning**

The school has an open door policy and works closely with educational and health care professionals who can signpost parents/carers to further avenues of support. All information from outside agencies will be discussed with parents/carers and the professionals involved directly, or where appropriate, in a report. A home-school contact book may be used to support communication.

## **Consulting young people with SEND and involving them in their education**

Wherever possible, children are encouraged to contribute to their own target setting and reviewing process. Self-assessment is an integral part of their learning at our school. Children are provided with additional support to contribute as fully as possible in their annual review. We seek children's views from regular questionnaires/ group interviews.

## **Arrangements for assessing and reviewing the progress of these pupils**

Thistly Meadow uses a range of methods to assess pupils, from day to day informative assessment made during lessons, to the formative assessment made each term. Once a child has been identified and assessed then a Small Steps plan is drawn up. These are reviewed termly. Parents/carers are encouraged to talk to class teachers or make an appointment to speak to the SENCO if they have concerns. If outside agencies or the Educational Psychologist have been involved, suggestions and programmes of study are then provided that can also be used at home.

Targets are reviewed in conjunction with pupils, parents/carers, class teachers, LSAs and new targets are then set.

The SENCO with key stage leaders and class teachers track the progress of the pupils on the SEND record. This information will be used to determine the level of support a child receives.

Class teachers and/or the SENCO are available by appointment for parents/carers to discuss their child's progress, seek advice, information and offer practical ways to help their child at home.

All parents/carers receive annual written reports which indicate how their child is performing in all curriculum areas in relation to Age Related Expectations.

## **Supporting pupils with SEND when they transfer between phases of education**

At Thistly Meadow we have strong links with pre-school providers. The SENCO and Foundation Stage teacher will visit a child with SEND in the pre-school setting prior to transition and additional visits to our school are also arranged.

We also work closely with our local high schools and have developed a transition pathway which allows our pupils and their families to get to know staff at the next school prior to transfer. There are close ties with the SEND team at both schools to support an inclusive family ethos and a smooth transition. This will include additional visits for SEND and vulnerable pupils.

In some cases, the SENCO at Thistly Meadow will arrange a transition meeting for parents, pupils and the high school SENCO.

Transition internally between classes is managed very carefully through visits to the new class settings. Class teachers meet to discuss pupils and hand on information prior to transition.

## **Our approach to teaching pupils with SEND**

All children (SEND or otherwise) receive high quality teaching and are organised by their chronological age. Teachers are skilled at differentiating work to meet the needs of all children.

All members of staff have high expectations of pupils, regardless of their needs, and planning takes into account pupil's individual needs and requirements. Recommendations from outside agencies are also considered when adopting teaching to meet specific needs. Teachers and LSAs also attend training courses to support their teaching methods.

If necessary, children receive additional support both in and outside of the classroom. This could be in the form of small group work, 1:1 support or with specialist equipment. Support is provided by class teachers and LSAs. Additional adults are used flexibly to support groups and individuals with the long term goal of developing independent learning skills.

a. The first type of support is provided by the class teacher through quality first teaching. This means that:

- The teacher has the highest expectations for all children, including those with SEND.
- Teaching is built on what your child already knows, can do and can understand.
- Different ways of teaching are in place to cater for your child's strengths and weaknesses.
- Specific strategies suggested by the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) or other outside agencies are in place to support your child's learning.

b. Specific small group work which may:

- Take place in the classroom or away from the main teaching area.
- Be led by a teacher or Learning Support Assistant (LSA)

Interventions like this currently being used focus on phonics, fine motor skills and handwriting, maths and literacy difficulties.

c. Specialist group or 1:1 support provided by outside agencies such as Speech Therapy or Autism Outreach Services.

d. Specified individual support.

This type of support is available for children whose learning difficulties are severe, complex and lifelong. This is usually provided via an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) formerly

a Statement of Special Educational Needs and is specifically for children who have been identified by professionals as needing a particularly high level of individual or small group support.

## **Adapting the curriculum and learning environment for pupils with SEND**

The aim at Thistly Meadow is for all children to receive a rich, broad and varied curriculum. Teachers ensure that all children, including those with SEND receive their full entitlement and access.

Class teachers receive regular training in a range of areas to help them understand and deliver lessons that meet the needs of pupils in their class.

Class teachers differentiate their teaching and use a range of learning styles including, visual, auditory and kinaesthetic. Children also have opportunity to work with both LSAs and the class teacher. Teachers plan support for all children and aim to encourage complete pupil involvement using, for example, 'talk partners'. Visualizers and interactive Smartboards are used in all classrooms. The school also acts on the advice from external agencies such as educational psychology, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, physiotherapy, and visual and hearing impairment teams, to identify necessary adaptations and alterations.

## **Staff expertise and training to support and teach pupils with SEND**

All staff members have a Level 1 qualification from the Autism Education Trust training hubs programme. A number of staff members have completed this training to Level 3.

Staff members have also received training in attachment awareness, safe-guarding and child protection, ADHD, dyslexia and speech and communication difficulties. Designated staff members are trained to use Epi-pens. All staff have participated in asthma awareness training.

The SENCO attends SEND network meetings each term to ensure the school is kept up to date with current statutory frameworks, and has access to support from a local group of SENCOs.

## **Evaluating the effectiveness of our provision for pupils with SEND**

All children receive high quality first teaching which is then differentiated for individual pupils, in particular for those who may have SEND. Interventions are organised to suit the particular needs of the pupil as either small group, whole class setting or 1:1 support.

Initial identification occurs through concerns raised during the school's assessment cycle and data tracking or via parents or Health professionals. The Head teacher, SENCO, key stage leaders and the class teacher work closely together to highlight any pupils who may

require additional provision or intervention in each class at the beginning of the year. Once concerns are raised all parties work closely with parents/carers and pupils. Support or intervention is organised following a scrutiny of individual pupil's data, recorded work and observation of learning in lessons.

Pupil progress is reviewed each term and the effectiveness of any additional support or intervention is evaluated. Formal assessments are made each term in reading, writing, maths and science and targets are set. Individual Education Plans (IEPs) are shared with parents at parent's evenings in October and February and are reviewed at this time. Provision maps are also used to review the effectiveness of intervention and to ensure that provision is relevant and appropriate.

For pupils with a Statement /EHCP, an Annual Review meeting is held with all adults involved in the pupil's education and provision is reviewed formally. Documentation is shared in advance and meetings are held at a mutually agreed time. Advice is provided by the class teacher, SENCO, external agencies and shared with parents/carers.

The ongoing monitoring identifies pupils who are not making the expected progress and require additional support to help them as each year progresses.

### **Provision of additional support to aid pupils with SEND**

At Thistly Meadow provision maps are used to identify and plan support for children who are being monitored or require additional support.

The support is varied and specific to the needs of the individual. It may include small group support work in class, individual support, small groups to develop social skills or provide nurture.

### **Improving the emotional and social development of pupils with SEND**

Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education is an integral part of our curriculum at Thistly Meadow, for all children.

Some children may have special needs which result in social, emotional and behavioural difficulties and these children are well supported. They may participate in small group or 1:1 sessions which provide nurture and help develop social skills and self esteem.

The school also offers family counselling where appropriate.

As a school we have a very positive approach to all types of behaviour. Our school's overarching Behaviour Policy, which includes guidance on expectations, rewards and sanctions, is implemented by all staff.

## **Facilities and equipment to support Pupils with SEND**

The school offers easy access, disabled parking, and ramps as well as a disabled toilet. We ensure that wherever possible that equipment used is accessible to all children regardless of their needs.

Outside agencies may be contacted if specialist equipment is required.

## **Provision of an inclusive curriculum for pupils with SEND**

All children are included in every aspect of the school curriculum and the school endeavours to include all pupils on school trips, visits and extra-curricular activities.

Pupils with SEND are given roles and responsibilities to encourage them to be confident and to develop self-esteem. Thistly Meadow School has a very inclusive ethos and offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities.

Risk assessments are completed by staff prior to any trips/ visits and where appropriate parents are invited to participate. Reasonable adjustments are made to meet any additional needs wherever possible.

LSAs provide 1:1 support for pupils with a high level of need at playtimes and lunchtimes, and the school operates a buddy system on the playground where pupils are encouraged to mentor and support their peers.

Where there is a financial implication, pupils in receipt of pupil premium may be subsidised by the school to enable them to participate in school trips/visits.

## **The role of governors**

The governors seek advice and support regarding SEND issues whenever appropriate to ensure the safety and smooth educational running of the school for all pupils, staff and parents. A designated governor is identified to have a focus on SEND and will follow the progress of all SEND pupils, including visits to the school.

Any complaints made by parents or carers of children with SEND, concerning provision at the school, are handled by the governors in accordance with the school's complaints policy, which can be found on our website.

## **Contact details for support services for parents and carers of pupils with SEND, including those for arrangements made in accordance with section 32 (Children and Families Act 2014)**

Information and support services for families can be accessed in the first instant by contacting the school directly via email on [office@thistlymeadow.leics.sch.uk](mailto:office@thistlymeadow.leics.sch.uk) or by telephone on 0116 2775648.

If parents have concerns of a pastoral nature or day to day issues they should contact their child's class teacher directly. If concerns are of a more educational nature or are about SEND, parents should then contact the SENCO.

Further advice and support for parents can be found at **SENDIASS – Special educational needs and disability information, advice and support service.**

Tel: 0116 3055614

Email: [sendiass@leics.gov.uk](mailto:sendiass@leics.gov.uk)

Website: [www.leicestershire.gov.uk](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk)

Transition internally between classes is managed very carefully through visits to the new class settings. Class teachers meet to discuss pupils and hand on information prior to transition.

### **Leicestershire County Council's SEND local offer**

Details of this can be found at [www.leicestershire.gov.uk/local-offer](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/local-offer)

**Please see our school website and our school policies for further information.**

**January 2021**