

# **Our Lady's Catholic High School**

## **Special Education Needs Policy**

*'Our Lady's is first and foremost a Catholic school. It follows from this that the ethos of our school should reflect the values proclaimed by Christ in the Gospels and recognise the unique value of each individual. Our Mission is to be a Faith Community which, through following Gospel Principles, acts as a positive example, both within our own and our extended community.*

*(from OLCHS Mission Statement)*

**Reviewed – Autumn Term 2020**

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**Definitions of special educational needs (SEN) taken from section 20 of the Children and Families Act 2014.**

A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for them. A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if they:

- a) Have significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age; or
- b) Have a disability which prevents which prevents or hinders them from making use of educational facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions.

A child under compulsory school age has special educational needs if they fall within the definition at (a) or (b) above or would do so if special educational provision was not made for them.

Children must not be regarded as having a learning difficulty solely because the language or form of language of their home is different from the language in which they will be taught.

The coalition government has reformed the way in which provision and support is made for children and young people with special educational needs and /or disabilities in England. New legislation (The Children and Families Act 2014) enacted on the 13<sup>th</sup> March came into force from the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014. A new SEN Code of Practice also accompanies this legislation.

More details about the reforms and the SEN Code of Practice can be found on the Department for Education's website:

[www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/sen](http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/sen)

One significant change arising from the reforms is that Statements of Special Educational Needs, for those children with the most complex needs, have now been replaced with a new Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC). These plans are being supported by an Education, Health and Care Plan Pathway.

The SEND Local Offer is a resource which is designed to support children and young people with special educational needs and /or disabilities and their families. It describes the services and provisions that are available both to those families in Lancashire that have an Education, Health and Care Plan and those who do not have a plan, but still experience some form of special educational need. The SEND Local Offer includes information about public services across education, health and social care, as well as those provided by the private, voluntary and community sectors. Please also refer to our local offer available on our website.

## Mission Statement

*'Enjoy, Learn, Achieve'*

Our Lady's Catholic High School is an inclusive school where everyone is made to feel welcome. Our school vision sets out to ensure that all students Enjoy high quality Learning experiences through which they are able to achieve their full potential. Our inclusive ethos aims to encourage all pupils to be actively involved in their own learning. This involves valuing all pupils and staff equally and reducing barriers to learning and participation.

### 1. Aims and objectives 'Every Teacher is a Teacher of SEN'.

#### Aims:

- Provide every child with access to a broad, balanced and ambitious education. This includes the National Curriculum in line with the Special Education Needs Code of Practice.
- Promote independence, equality and consideration for others.
- Ensure that we celebrate the wide range of our students' achievement.
- Support all students to excel by offering multiple pathways for progression.
- Equip students with the skills and attributes necessary for adult life both through the curriculum and extracurricular activities.
- Create a welcoming atmosphere for parents.

#### Objectives

- **Staff members seek to identify the needs of pupils with SEN as early as possible.** This is most effectively done by gathering information from parents, education, health and care services (and feeder schools) prior to the child's entry into the school. Where needs have not been previously identified staff have an obligation to report observations to the SENCo via the Learning Support Intervention Form available from the Learning Support Manager.
- **Monitor the progress of all pupils** in order to aid the identification of pupils with SEN. Continuous monitoring of those pupils with SEN by their teachers will help to ensure that they are able to reach their full potential.
- **Make appropriate provision to overcome all barriers to learning and ensure pupils with SEN have full access to the National Curriculum.** This will be co-ordinated by the {SENCo, Head of Learning Support} and will be carefully monitored and regularly reviewed in order to ensure that they are catered for.
- **Work with parents to** gain a better understanding of their child and involve them in all stages of their child's education. This includes supporting them in terms of understanding SEN procedures and practices and providing regular feedback on their child's progress.
- **Work with and in support of outside agencies** when the pupils' needs cannot be met by the school alone, Our Lady's Catholic High School receives further support from Schools and Families Specialist Services, Education Psychology Service, Speech and Language Therapy, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), MASH and other.

- **Create a school environment where pupils can contribute to their own learning** by offering all students the opportunity to voice their own opinions. This is achieved by encouraging positive relationships with adults in school and carefully monitoring the progress of all pupils at regular intervals. (A sense of comradeship and team spirit is also encouraged through wider opportunities for participation in school life (e.g. membership of the School Council, affiliation with sports teams and other clubs.)

## **2. Responsibility for the coordination of SEN provision**

- The person responsible for overseeing the provision for children with SEN is Mrs E Howard (Assistant Headteacher/SENCo)
- The person co-ordinating the day to day provision of education for pupils with SEN is Mrs C Waszczuk (Learning Support Manager)

## **3. Arrangements for coordinating SEN provision**

- The SENCo will hold details of all SEN Support records such as the SEN Register, provision maps, strategy sheets and structured conversation minutes for individual pupils.

### **All staff can access the following documents on the 'M' (Staff) Drive:**

- The Our Lady's Catholic High School SEN Policy
- A copy of the full SEN Register.
- Information on individual pupils' special educational needs including pupil profiles and advice from external specialists where applicable.
- Information available through the Lancashire County Council SEND Local Offer.

By accessing the above every staff member will have complete and up to date information about all pupils with special needs and their requirements; enabling them to provide for the individual needs of all pupils. This policy is made accessible to all staff and parents in order to aid the effective coordination of the school's SEN provision.

## **4. Admission arrangements**

Please refer to the information contained in our school prospectus.

The admission arrangements for all pupils are in accordance with national legislation, including the Equality Act 2010. This includes children with any level of SEN, those with Education, Health and Care Plans and those without. Please refer to the information contained in our school prospectus.

Where appropriate upon transition; children with identified needs will be supported through liaison meetings with parents, key staff from both settings and support agencies. An individual plan of action to aid transition will be offered.

## **5. Specialist SEN provision**

Our Lady's Catholic High school is an inclusive school. In our school we support children with a wide range of needs. We are committed to whole school inclusion and will seek support and training from SEND services where appropriate.

## **6. Facilities for pupils with SEN**

Please see our local offer available on our website for full details.

## 7. Exam concession arrangements

The school follows JCQ guidelines for exam concessions. Concessions will be applied for at KS4 when a pupil has needed additional support during exams as part of their normal way of working. Concessions may include extra-time, word processing or a reader. Please see [JCQ guidelines](#) for full details.

## 8. Identification of pupils needs

### **Identification:**

See definition of **Special Educational Needs** at start of policy.

### **A graduated approach: 'Every Teacher is a Teacher of SEN'.**

### **Quality First Teaching:** 'The baseline of learning for *all* pupils'.

- 1) Any pupil is falling significantly outside of the range of expected academic achievement in line with predicted performance indicators and grade boundaries will be monitored by the Learning Manager.
- 2) Once a pupil has been identified as *possibly* having SEN they will be closely monitored by staff in order to gauge their level of learning and possible difficulties. There are areas which are not SEN but may impact on progress and attainment.
- 3) The subject teacher will take steps to provide differentiated learning opportunities that will aid the pupil's academic progression and enable the teacher to better understand the provision and teaching style that needs to be applied.
- 4) The SENCo or Learning Support Manager will be consulted as needed for support and advice and may wish to observe the pupil in class.
- 5) Through the above actions it can be determined which level of provision the pupil will need.
- 6) If a pupil has recently been removed from the SEN register they may also fall into this category as continued monitoring will be necessary.
- 7) Parents will be informed fully of every stage of their child's development and the circumstances under which they are being monitored. Parents are encouraged to share information and queries with the school.
- 8) The pupil is monitored if concern is raised by parent or teacher but this does not automatically place the pupil on the school's SEN register. Concerns are discussed with parents / carers. It is recorded by the school as an aid to further progression and for future reference.
- 9) Pupil progress meetings, academic tutorials and parent evening are used to monitor and assess the progress being made by all students. The frequency of these meeting is dependent on individual progress.

### **SEN Support:**

Where it is determined that a pupil does have SEN and this hasn't previously been identified at primary school, parents will be formally advised of this before inclusion of the individual on the School SEN Register. The aim of formally identifying a pupil with SEN is to help school

ensure that effective provision is put in place and so remove barriers to learning. The support provided consists of a four-part process indicated below:

- Assess
- Plan
- Do
- Review

This is an ongoing cycle to enable the provision to be refined and revised as the understanding of an individual grows. This cycle enables the identification of those interventions which are the most effective in supporting the pupil to achieve good progress and outcomes.

### **Asses**

In identifying a child as needing SEN support the subject teacher, or SEN specialist intervention teacher working with the SENCo should carry out a clear analysis of the pupil's needs. This should draw on subject assessments, teacher observations, details of previous progress and attainment, comparisons with peers as well as the views and experience of parents. The opinion and feelings of the individual and advice from external support services will also be considered. Any parental concerns will be recorded and compared with the school's information and assessment data on how the pupil is progressing.

This analysis will require regular review to ensure that support and intervention is matched to need; barriers to learning are clearly identified and being challenged and that the interventions being used are developing and evolving as required. Where external support staffs are already involved their work will help inform the assessment of need. Where they are not involved they may be contacted, if this is felt to be appropriate, following discussion and agreement from parents.

### **Plan**

When it is decided to provide a pupil with SEN support, parents will be informed in writing. Planning will involve consultation between the teacher, Learning Manager, SENCo and parents to agree the adjustments, interventions and support that are required; the impact on progress, development and or behaviour that is expected and a clear date for review. Parental involvement may be sought, where appropriate, to reinforce or contribute to progress at home.

All those working with the pupil, including support staff, will be informed of their individual needs, the support that is being provided, any particular teaching strategies/approaches that are being employed and the outcomes that are being sought.

### **Do**

The tutor, Learning Manager and subject teachers remain responsible for working with the pupil on a daily basis. They will retain responsibility even where the interventions may involve group or 1:1 teaching away from the mainstream classes. They will work closely with teaching assistants and relevant specialist staff to plan and assess the impact of support and interventions and links with classroom teaching. Support with further assessment of the pupil's strengths and weaknesses, problem solving and advising of the implementation of effective support will be provided by the SENCo.

## **Review**

The review process will evaluate the impact and quality of the support and interventions. The SENCo will revise the support and in light of pupil progress and development; making any necessary amendments going forward, in consultation with parents and subject teachers.

## **Referral for an Education, Health and Care Plan:**

If a pupil has lifelong or significant difficulties, they may undergo a Statutory Assessment Process which is usually requested by the school but can be requested by a parent. This will occur where the complexity of need or a lack of clarity around the needs of the pupil are such that a multi-agency approach to assessing that need, to planning provision and identifying resources, is required.

The decision to make a referral for an Education, Health and Care Plan will be taken at a progress review involving parents, SENCo and Learning Manager if applicable.

The application for an Education, Health and Care Plans will combine information from a variety of sources including:

- Parents
- Teachers
- SENCo
- Social Care
- Health professionals

Information will be gathered relating to the current provision and a summary of any action points taken; the preliminary outcomes of the targets set form the basis of the profile. A decision will be made by a group of people from education, health and social care about whether the pupil is eligible for an EHC Plan. Parents have the right to appeal against a decision not to initiate a statutory assessment leading to an EHC Plan.

Further information about EHC Plans can be found via the SEND Local Offer:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/your-local-offer/>

Or by speaking to an Education, Health and Care Plan Coordinator on:

Or by contacting the Parent Partnership Service on:

01772 532030

## **Education, Health and Care Plans (EHC Plan)**

1. Following Statutory Assessment, an EHC Plan will be provided by Lancashire County Council, if it is decided that the needs of an individual are not being met by the support that is ordinarily available. Both staff in school and parents will be involved developing and producing the plan.



2. Parents have the right to appeal against the content of the EHC Plan. They may also appeal against the school named in the Plan if it differs from their preferred choice.
3. Once the EHC plan has been completed and agreed, it will be kept as part of the pupil's formal record and reviewed at least annually by staff, parents and the pupil. The Annual Personal Review enables provision for the pupil to be evaluated and, where appropriate, for changes to be put in place.

An online link to the Lancashire County Council SEND Local Offer can be found on the school on the school website homepage. For further information, please contact the SENCo or The Learning Support Manager in school.

#### **9. Access to curriculum, information and associated services**

Pupils with SEN will be given access to the curriculum through the specialist SEN provision provided by the school as is necessary, as far as possible, taking into account with the wishes of parents and the needs of the individual.

Every effort will be made to educate pupils with SEN alongside their peers in a mainstream classroom setting. Where this is not possible. The SENCo will consult with parents for other flexible arrangements to be made. Regular training and learning opportunities for staff on the subject of SEN and SEN teaching are provided in school. Staff members are encouraged to attend inset training to further develop skills and knowledge.

##### **Ensuring Access to the Curriculum for Pupils with SEN:**

##### **The SENCo, Head of Learning Support and Senior Leaders are responsible for:**

- Ensuring curriculum are leaders have clearly stated ambitious expectations (written in their subject area intent documents) for pupils with SEND and that is shared and understood by all teachers.
- Keeping staff fully informed of the special educational needs of any pupils including sharing progress reports, medical reports and teacher feedback.
- Providing regular training and learning opportunities for staff in all departments on the subject of SEN and SEN teaching. Ensuring staff members are kept up to date with teaching methods which will aid the progress of all pupils including those with SEN.
- In class provision and support are deployed effectively to ensure that the curriculum is differentiated where necessary.
- Individual or small group tuition is available where it is felt that pupils would benefit from this provision.
- Setting appropriate individual targets that motivate pupils to do their best, and celebrating achievements at all levels.

#### **10. Inclusion of pupils with SEN**

The Head teacher Mr N Ranson oversees Our Lady's Catholic High School Policy for inclusion and is responsible for ensuring that it is implemented effectively throughout the school.

The school curriculum is regularly reviewed by the Senior Leadership Team to ensure that it promotes the inclusion of all pupils.

The school will seek advice where appropriate around individual pupils, from external support services. Where a behavioural incident warrants exclusion the relevant Learning Manager and member(s) of SLT will consider the incident in line with the Schools Exclusion Policy.

Reasonable adjustments for pupils with a diagnosed SEND condition will be made to our B4L system when appropriate. SEND needs are discussed at all level meetings.

#### **11. Evaluating the success of provision.**

Pupil progress will be monitored on a termly basis in line with the SEN Code of Practice. The Learning Support Department offer an *Open Door* policy where parents can access the SENCo and Learning Support Manager regularly by appointment. Further feedback from parents can be given at any time through email contact available on the school website.

A formal SEN report to governors takes place twice a year. The evaluation is carried out by the SENCo in consultation with the Head teacher, link SEN governor and Learning Support Manager. Information is gathered from different sources such as pupil and parent feedback / teacher and staff comments / parents evenings / information evenings and report feedback forms.

Effective analysis of intervention takes place three times per year and full details are given in Appendix IV of the Assessment Policy.

#### **12. Complaints procedure**

Refer to the general Complaints Procedure.

If a parent or carer has any concerns or complaints regarding the care or welfare of their child, an appointment can be made by them to speak to the SENCo or Learning Support Manager who will be able to offer advice on formal procedures for complaint if necessary.

#### **13. In service training (CPD)**

We aim to keep all Our Lady's staff up to date with relevant training and developments in teaching practice in relation to the need of pupils with SEN.

Our Lady's Catholic High School seeks the support of the Local Educational Psychology Service when a need for specialist training is identified. The Learning Support Department and Senior Leadership Team consider the relevance of specific training carefully and aim to meet the needs of staff dealing with specific SEN issues.

The SENCo and Learning Support Manager attends relevant SEN courses, Family SEN meetings and facilitates/signposts relevant SEN focused external training opportunities for all staff. All Teaching Assistants are offered training opportunities through a range of local agencies working with specific students at Our Lady's Catholic High School.

We recognise the need to train all our staff on SEN issues and we have funding available to support this professional development. The SENCo, with the Senior Leadership Team, ensures that training opportunities are matched to school development priorities and those identified through the use of provision management. (see Section 11).

#### **14. Links to support services**

The school continues to build strong working relationships and links with external support services in order to fully support our SEN pupils and aid school inclusion.

Sharing knowledge and information with our support services is key to the effective and successful SEN provision within our school. Anyone of the support services may raise concerns about a pupil. This will then be brought to the attention of the SENCo and Learning Support Manager who will then inform the child's parents. The Pastoral Team, Behaviour Manager, Support Councillor, Attendance and Welfare Officer, School Nurse, SENCo and Learning Support Manager attend a half-termly inclusion Meeting. At this time any relevant information regarding pupils with SEN is discussed and if necessary filtered to teaching staff using a variety of means. This forum provides an opportunity to gather evidence, offer advice and appoint a key worker to aid in the path to appropriate provision.

#### **15. Working in partnerships with parents**

Our Lady's Catholic High School believes that a close working relationship with parents is vital in order to ensure:

- Early and accurate identification and assessment of SEN leading to the correct intervention and provision.
- Continuing Social and academic progress of children with SEN to enable personal success.
- Parental views are considered and valued.

The SENCo may also signpost parents of pupils with SEN to the local authority Parent Partnership service where specific advice, guidance and support may be required.

If an assessment or referral indicates that a pupil has additional learning needs the parents and the pupil will always be consulted with regards to future provision. Parents are invited to attend meetings with external agencies regarding their child and are kept up to date and consulted on any point of action drawn up in regards to the provision for their child. The school's SEN link governor may be contacted at any time in relation to SEN matters.

#### **16. Links with other schools**

The school has very close ties with its feeder Primary Schools and local sixth form colleges. This enables the partnership to share advice and expertise.

Where a student has a current statement or EHC plan there is a legal requirement to provide an annual review at the point of Year 6 and Year 11 transition. This review may take the form of a Person Centred Review or Formal Review. This is decided upon by the SENCo in

consultation with external agencies. Transition plans are drawn up in accordance to parental, pupil and staff views follows the actions of a Review Meeting.

### 17. Links with other agencies and voluntary organisations

Our Lady’s Catholic High School invites and seeks advice and support from external agencies in the identification, assessment and provision of SEN. The SENCo, Learning Support Manager, and Pastoral support Co-ordinator are the designated persons responsible for liaising with the following:

- Lancashire County Council Education Psychology Service
- Social Services
- Speech and Language Service
- Language and Learning Support Service
- Specialist Outreach Services

Representatives from voluntary organisations and other external agencies are invited to meetings throughout the year to discuss SEN provision and progress and keep staff up to date with legislation.

In cases where a child is under observation or a cause for concern, focussed meetings will be arranged with the appropriate agency. Parents will normally be invited to and informed about any meetings held concerning their child unless there are over riding safeguarding issues.

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Signed ----- [Name] **(Head Teacher)**

Date -----

Signed ----- [Name] **(SENCo)**

Date -----

Signed ----- [Name] **(SEN Governor)**

Date -----

## **Appendix 1**

### **Arrangements for SEND pupils during COVID-19**

- **In the event of a school closure direct contact with the family of a child with an EHCP will be made at least once every week.**
- **The aim of the contact will be to focus on wellbeing**
  - **To act as a liaison with teachers**
  - **To offer advice to parents on structures/routines**
  - **To ensure that a strong link and familiarity with the school continues.**
- **In the event of a child with SEND or an EHCP needing to self-isolate work will be set by the child's teacher in line with normal practice.**