



The Cathedral School of St Mary

SEND Information Report 2023-2024

At The Cathedral School of St Mary, we believe that all children and young people are entitled to an education. This education should enable them to make progress so that they:

- achieve their best
- become confident individuals living fulfilling lives, and
- make a successful transition into adulthood, whether into employment, further or higher education or training **(p.81 Code of Practice, 2014)**.

What does having SEND (Special Educational Needs or Disability) mean?

'A pupil has SEND where their learning difficulty or disability call for special educational provision, that is provision different from or additional to that normally available to pupils of the same age' **(SEN Code of Practice p.83)**.

We are an inclusive Catholic school and aim to support all children and meet their individual needs within our allocated school budget.

The Code of Practice identifies four broad areas of need: : **(SEN Code of Practice, p. 86/87)**

1. Communication and interaction
2. Cognition and learning
3. Social, emotional and mental health difficulties
4. Sensory and/or physical needs

How does The Cathedral School of St Mary know that children may need extra support?

We know that pupils may need additional support if:

- Concerns are raised by Parents/Carers
- Concerns are raised by teachers and school staff
- Concerns are raised by outside agencies
- There is a lack of progress over two terms (e.g. from September to Easter)
- A pupil asks for help
- There is a change in the pupil's behaviour

What should I do if I think my child may have SEND?

If you are concerned, please contact your child's teacher, the SENCo (Mrs Bemand), Headteacher (Mrs Wright), or our Parent Support Adviser (Mrs Cook).

[Who is responsible for children with SEND?](#)

Mrs Bemand is our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo). She organises support for all children with SEND across the school.

Class Teachers are responsible for the day to day teaching of children with SEND in their class. The Head Teacher has overall responsibility for the learning, care and safety of all pupils in our school.

All of the staff in our school work in partnership with Mrs Bemand to meet the needs of our children with SEND.

To contact any of our staff who could support you please contact the school office using the email address csosmadmin@plymouthcast.com or by phoning (01752) 265270

[What will our school do if your child is falling behind?](#)

We recognise that all children make progress at different rates and at different times. It may be that your child requires some extra support to meet their potential, but it may also be that there is a Special Educational Need or Disability that your child is encountering and we need to work together to ensure that the right support is in place. Initially, we will have a chat with you about additional support your child may need. This may include:

- Support in a small group
- Additional lunch-time or playtime provision
- Careful monitoring
- Additional classroom resources

After a review of the support already given, it may be necessary to make a more detailed plan. This might include advice from out of school agencies. We will always seek to work alongside parents in meeting the needs of our pupils. We recognise that parents know their children best.

[How will you be supported to share your views?](#)

All parents/carers are encouraged to contribute to their child's education.

We have a number of formal opportunities for parents to meet with key members of staff - for example:

- During Parents' Evenings
- Discussions with the class teacher
- During planned discussions with Mrs Bemand, our SENCo; Mrs Wright, our Headteacher or Mrs Cook, our Parent Support Adviser.
- Shared written information, for example, if your child has a home-school communication book.

In addition to the formal, planned opportunities to meet with staff to share your views, we are always keen to chat! If anything is ever concerning you regarding your child's learning please do feel free to contact either your child's class teacher, Mrs Bemand (SENCo), Mrs Cook (PSA) or Mrs Wright (Headteacher)

[How will my child be supported to share their views?](#)

As the diagram below sets out, your child is at the centre of all provision that is in place for them. We work hard to seek the views of pupils in an age appropriate manner. This may be through 1:1 discussion, group work, liaison with our Learning Mentor, our PSA, Teaching Assistants, teaching Staff or SENDCo.

How does The Cathedral School of St Mary support children with SEND?



- Once your child has been identified with SEND the class teacher and SENCO work closely together to ensure they have the appropriate provision.
- Where possible, the class teacher will ensure their needs are met with high quality teaching within the classroom.
- The class teacher will keep an up-to-date class provision map which notes your child's provision to ensure needs are met.
- The teacher and SENCO communicate frequently to discuss your child's progress and achievements. This forms part of the graduated approach (a model of action and intervention).

What training or specialist expertise do our staff have around supporting children with SEND?

Mrs Bemand has completed the National Award for Special Educational Needs Coordination at Winchester University.

All of our staff have had a range of training around supporting children with SEND. Where a need is identified we will seek specialist advice and support.

Who can I contact for further information?

For further Information, Advice and Support for SEND (PIAS) provides information, advice and support relating to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) for parents, carers, children and young people within the Plymouth Local Authority area. Visit <https://www.plymouthias.org.uk/>

Where can I find Local Authority information about SEND?

Please click here

<https://www.plymouthonlinedirectory.com/plymouthlocaloffer>

This will take you to Plymouth's online directory. Here you will find information about how the Local Authority expects schools to meet the needs of children with SEND and their families. This is called the 'Local Offer'.

What specialist services and expertise can be accessed by our school?

At times it may be necessary to consult with outside agencies to receive their more specialised expertise. The agencies used by our school include;

- The Communication and Interaction Team
- Speech and Language Team
- Educational Psychologist
- School nurse
- Occupational Therapist
- Child Development Centre
- Counsellor/ Drama Therapist and Learning Mentors from MAST
- Visual Impairment team
- Physical Disability outreach team
- Educational Welfare Officer
- Multi-Agency Support Team
- Social Care

How accessible is the school environment?

As a school we are happy to discuss individual access requirements please contact the school office to arrange an appointment on (01752) 265270

How does The CAthedral School of St Mary support children with SEND joining or leaving our school?

At St Joseph's we understand that moving school can be a worrying time for children and their families. We try to make this easier by:

- Planning visits for children who will be joining school in the Reception class.
- Sharing information between nursery/home and school if your child has SEND or if there is a concern that they have additional needs.
- At times children may need to have an 'enhanced' transition, in these cases we will work with you and other professionals to offer extra support.
- All children will be given the opportunity to have a 'move up' day before they go to their next class.

- If your child needs a bit more support with moving classroom and change of teacher we will create a more detailed plan of action to help them with the move.
- When children are in Upper Key Stage 2 (years 5 and 6) they will be supported to think about and often visit the preferred secondary school.
- Sometimes parents and the SENCo will need to make more detailed plans to support with choice of school and/or more visits to the new school.
- If a child joins our school mid-way through a school year, we will contact the previous school for the child's records. Where there are additional needs the SENCo at the old and new school will share information so that we can understand how best to support them.

If you wish to discuss your child's educational needs further or are unhappy about something regarding the support your child is receiving please contact Mrs Wright (Head Teacher) or Cannon Mark (Chair of Governors).

Last updated: September 2023