



## **Questions and Answers about the provision in place at St Matthew's to support children with additional needs:**

Q: How does St Matthew's C of E Primary know if children need extra help?

A: Children may be identified as having SEND through a variety of ways including the following:

- Find it harder to learn than the majority of children in their class
- Concerns raised by parents
- Have a specific need which prevents them from making use of our educational facilities
- Through termly progress reviews of all pupils including children with SEND held between the teachers/SENDCo and headteacher
- Concerns raised for example when behaviour or self-esteem is affecting progress
- Liaison with external agencies e.g. physical
- Health diagnosis through paediatrician/doctor

As a school we measure children's progress in learning against national expectations.

The class teacher continually assesses each child and notes areas where they are improving and areas where they may need additional help. As a school we track children's progress from when they start school in Early Years through to Year 6 using lots of different methods.

Children who are not making expected progress are picked up through our termly progress reviews. In this meeting we discuss why individual children are experiencing difficulty and what further support can be given to help them. If it is decided that a child has special educational needs, this will be discussed with parents and the child will be registered as receiving SEND support.

Q: What should I do if I think my child may have special educational needs?

A: Talk to us – firstly contact your child's class teacher. If you require more information contact our SENDCo, Mrs Holmes or the Headteacher. We actively encourage and support parents to work closely with the school to develop a partnership that will support our pupils with SEND. We pride ourselves on building positive relationships with parents. We are open and honest with parents and hope that they are able to do the same with us.

See [Stockport's Co-Production Charter](#)



Q: How will St Matthew's staff support my child?

A: Our SENDCo will closely monitor all provision and progress of any child requiring additional support within class. The class teacher will oversee, plan and work with each child with SEND in their class to ensure that progress in every area is made. There may be a Teaching Assistant working with your child either individually or as part of a small group, whilst also ensuring the development of independent learning skills. How often these sessions are will be explained to parents when the support starts.

Q: How will the curriculum be matched to my child's needs?

A: All work within class is pitched at an appropriate level so that all children are able to access according to their specific needs. Lessons will be adapted to meet the needs of children in the class. The benefit of this is that all children can access a lesson and learn at their level. Work may also be adapted with the use of different resources or support.

Q: How do we know if the support or strategies used have had an impact?

A: We will work with you to create SEND Support Plans and agree provision to set targets and review progress. We can use these targets to monitor pupil's progress academically against national/age expected levels and update or adjust the plan. This may involve updating into smaller steps or using a different approach to ensure progress is made. Children may move off SEND support when they have made sufficient progress or they no longer need a provision that is different to their peers. This will be discussed and decided with you as the parent/carer.

Q: How will I know how my child is doing and how will you help me to support my child's learning?

A: The class teacher will arrange a meeting with parents at least twice a year to discuss your child's needs, support and progress. Targets will be reviewed with you every term but more frequent reviews and meetings will take place as and when needed.

For further information the SENDCo is available to discuss support in more detail.

We offer an open-door policy where you are welcome any time to make an appointment to meet with either the class teacher or SENDCo and discuss how your child is getting on. We can offer advice and practical ways that you can help your child at home.

We believe that your child's education should be a partnership between parents and teachers therefore we aim to keep communication channels open and communicate regularly, especially if your child has complex needs.

- Your child may have a SEND Support Plan in place and therefore the targets are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time scaled) targets with the expectation that the child will achieve the target by the time it is reviewed.
- If your child has complex SEND they may have an EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan) which means that a formal annual review will take place to discuss your child's progress and a report will be written. This can also be done at a six-monthly interim review if changes to circumstances occur or concerns arise.

Q: How will my child be able to contribute their views?

A: We value and celebrate each child being able to express their views on all aspects of school life.

Children who have support plans discuss and set their targets with their class teacher. There is an annual pupil questionnaire where we actively seek the viewpoints of children especially concerning being able to speak to an adult if they have a worry. If your child has an EHC Plan their views will be obtained before any annual reviews.

Q: What support will there be for my child's emotional well-being?

A: We are an inclusive school, we welcome and celebrate diversity. All members of staff appreciate the importance of children having high self-esteem in order to achieve positive well-being. Here at St Matthew's, we commit to our own values and ensure pupils are able to develop in a caring, Christian, fair and understanding environment.

The class teacher has overall responsibility for the pastoral, medical and social care of every child in their class, therefore this would be the parents' first point of contact. If further support is required, the class teacher can liaise with the SENDCo/Safeguarding Team for further advice and support. This may involve working alongside outside agencies such as the Inclusion Team, Primary Jigsaw or our Mental Health Practitioner.

Q: What specialist services and expertise are available at or accessed by St Matthew's Primary School?

A: As a school we work closely with any external agencies that we feel are relevant to individual children's needs within our school including:

- Stockport Inclusion Service including Social, Emotional and Mental Health support and Cognition and Learning support
- Speech and Language
- Primary Jigsaw

- Mental Health Support Team
- School Nurse
- Healthy Young Minds (HYMs)
- Occupational Therapy

We also work very closely with Social Care and an Educational Psychologist. Should your child require any form of involvement with an outside agency then the school would immediately discuss with you and obtain permission from parents prior to any kind of outside professional intervention.

Q: What training have staff had or going to have?

A: Mrs Holmes and Mrs Simon have completed The National Award for Special Needs Coordination.

Our designated safeguarding lead is Mr Murphy.

Most of our TA's have had relevant training in delivering reading/spelling/phonics/maths interventions such as SERI, BRP and Motivational Maths. We also have teaching assistants trained in delivering Motor Skills United and Speech and Language programmes.

As a staff team we have regular training and updates regarding SEND needs, medication use and resources/interventions available for our pupils in order to ensure all staff are able to manage pupils needs appropriately

Q: How will my child be included in activities outside the classroom including school trips?

A: All children are included in all parts of the school curriculum and we aim for all children to be included on school trips. We will work closely with you to ensure that we can provide the necessary support to make this successful.

A risk assessment is carried out prior to any off site activity to ensure everyone's health and safety will not be compromised.

Q: How accessible is the school environment?

A: St Matthew's Primary School has full disability access and is DDS compliant. Our building is situated on one floor and can be accessed by wheelchair. We also have two disabled toilets. Any other resources needed for access may be assessed by OT and physiotherapy in order for us to ensure ease of access and safety for all.

The school is able to liaise with Stockport Ethnic Diversity Service (EDS) who can at times assist us in supporting our families with English as an additional language.

Q: How will St Matthew's Primary School prepare and support my child to join the school, move between year groups and then transfer to secondary school?

A: We encourage all new children to visit the school prior to starting when they will be shown around the school and any concerns can be addressed. For children with SEND we would encourage further visits to assist with the adjusting to their new surroundings.

- We may need to write a 'Social Story' to ease the transition for pupils with high anxiety and communication difficulties
- School/parents may also feel the need to arrange several transition meetings/sessions between teachers/ the schools in order to alleviate pupil concern

Many of our 'feeder' secondary schools run a programme specifically tailored to aid transition for the more vulnerable pupils.

We liaise closely with staff when receiving and transferring children to different settings/schools ensuring all relevant paperwork is passed on and all needs are discussed and understood. If your child has complex needs then an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) review may be used as a transition meeting during which we will invite staff from both schools to attend.

When a child transfers classes within the school all relevant paperwork is passed on and the child's needs are discussed by the transferring and receiving teachers.

Prior to starting school all nursery children receive a home visit.

Q: How is the decision made about what type and how much support my child will receive?

A: The class teacher alongside the SENDCo, will work with you to discuss your child's needs and what support would be appropriate to help them access education. Different children will require different levels of support in order to meet needs and this will be captured and reviewed within the plan we create with you for your child.

Q: What support is there for improving behaviour, attendance and avoiding exclusion?

A: As a school we have a very positive approach to all types of behaviour with a clear reward system and behaviour policy that is followed by all staff and pupils. If a child is displaying challenging behaviours due to their emotions being dysregulated, we would always work with you and your child to understand the underlying needs behind this behaviour. If emotional regulation remains challenging for your child a de-escalation plan may be created to help staff to use effective strategies to meet the child's needs and help them feel regulated in school.

After any behaviour incident we expect the child to reflect on their behaviour with an adult using a Restorative Approach. This helps to identify why the incident happened and what the child needs to do differently next time to change their behaviour. We keep a record of incidents to show any patterns of behaviour and to track any triggers for these patterns so that we can adjust our approaches and provision accordingly.

Attendance of every child is monitored on a daily basis by the safeguarding team.

Q: Who can I contact for further information?

A: Your main point of contact would always be the class teacher and then following this you may need to speak to the SENDCo Mrs Holmes.

Tel 0161 474 7110 or email [admin@cdatstmatthewsprimary.co.uk](mailto:admin@cdatstmatthewsprimary.co.uk) to make contact

Q: What should you do if you feel that the School Offer is not being delivered or is not meeting your child's needs?

A: First point of contact would be your child's class teacher to share your concerns. You could also arrange to meet our SENDCo, Mrs Holmes and/or Mr Murphy our Headteacher. You may also wish to look at the SEND policy Information Report on our website.

### **Additional Information:**

## SEND Information, Advice and Support Service



Stockport SENDIASS offer free, impartial and confidential information, advice and support to parents and carers of children and young people with SEND and to young people themselves. We have a role in ensuring parents' and young peoples' views are heard, understood and respected.

Further information can be found here:

[https://stockport.fsd.org.uk/kb5/stockport/fsd/service.page?id=1hgBo5Aw\\_6s](https://stockport.fsd.org.uk/kb5/stockport/fsd/service.page?id=1hgBo5Aw_6s)

### **Useful Websites:**

#### **Stockport's Local Offer:**

The Stockport Local Offer provides advice, information and services to children and young people with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) and their families.

Further information can be found here:

<https://stockport.fsd.org.uk/kb5/stockport/fsd/localoffer.page?localofferchannel=0>

Q: Who should I contact if I am considering whether my child should join St Matthew's Primary School?

A: In this instance you can contact the school office to arrange a meeting with the Headteacher Mr Murphy to discuss how the school could meet your child's needs.

Q: How often is the SEND Information Report reviewed?

A: The Information Report will be reviewed annually to reflect the changing needs of the children who join and are developing in our school.

**The SEND Code of Practice can be downloaded from**

<http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>

<b>Reviewed in school:</b>	<b>Next review date:</b>
Summer 2022	Autumn 2023