

St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School



SEND Information Report

2026 – 2027

***Rooted in faith
Growing in love
Learning for life***

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Welcome to SEND at St Francis of Assisi

At St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School, we believe that every child is uniquely created in the image and likeness of God and is entitled to feel valued, respected and included. We are committed to providing an ambitious, nurturing and inclusive education that enables all pupils to flourish academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually.

We recognise and celebrate neurodiversity and understand that children learn, communicate and experience the world in different ways. Our aim is to remove barriers to learning and participation so that every pupil can achieve their full potential.

We work in partnership with families, the Parish, external professionals and the wider community to ensure that all children receive the support they need to thrive.

We know as a parent/carer you may have questions, worries or simply want to understand how school can help your child thrive. This report aims to explain, in a straightforward way, how we identify and support children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), and how we work alongside families every step of the way.

Meet the Inclusion Team

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What is SEND?

A child or young person has Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) if they require provision that is additional to or different from that normally available to children of the same age.

SEND may fall within one or more of four broad areas:

Communication and Interaction • Speech and language difficulties • Autism • Social communication needs	Social, Emotional and Mental Health • ADHD • Anxiety • Emotional regulation difficulties • EBSA (Emotionally Based School Avoidance)
Sensory and Physical Needs • Hearing impairment • Visual impairment • Physical disabilities • Medical needs affecting learning	Cognition and Learning • Dyslexia • Dyscalculia • Learning difficulties

My child is struggling. What should I do?

Class teacher

If you are worried about your child's 🎯 progress, 🧩 development, behaviour, 🗣️ communication, 🤝 friendships or ❤️ wellbeing, the first step is to speak with your child's **class teacher**.

Often, concerns can be addressed through adaptations in the classroom and close monitoring. Sometimes further support may be needed. If appropriate, your child's teacher will involve the SENDco to help explore what additional provision may be helpful.

You do not need to wait for a diagnosis to ask for support. At St Francis, we believe early conversations and early intervention make a real difference.

What happens next?

Talk to your child's class teacher

If you have concerns about your child's learning, development, communication, behaviour, friendships or wellbeing, please speak to your child's class teacher. We believe early conversations are important and encourage parents to share concerns as soon as possible.

Assess and Plan

- The class teacher and SENDCo may:
-  Gather information from school, home and the child
-  Review progress and attainment
-  Seek views from parents/carers and the child
-  Identify strengths and areas of need

Support

Support may include:

Adapted classroom teaching / Visual supports and resources / Small group interventions / Additional adult support / Emotional wellbeing support / Speech, language and communication strategies / Social skills support / Specialist resources

Review

We regularly review the impact of support with children and families. This may result in: support continuing / New strategies being introduced / Advice being sought from external professionals / A child being placed on SEND support / Consideration of an Education, Health Care Needs Assessment where appropriate.

Working Together

Parents, children school staff and specialists.

By working together, we can ensure every child receives the support they need to flourish academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually.

We follow a cycle of Assess → Plan → Do → Review to ensure support remains tailored to each child individual needs and we use this graduated approach to also review and adapt support.

For a small number of children with more complex needs, the school may in partnership with parents and professionals, request an Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment from the Local Authority.

How will school know if any child needs additional support?

Children develop and learn at different rates, so it is important that we take time to understand both strengths and areas of need.

We identify SEND through a range of information including:

- classroom observations
- pupil progress information
- conversations with parents
- discussions with the child
- attendance and wellbeing information
- screening assessments
- advice from outside professionals

Sometimes needs become evident quickly; sometimes they emerge over time. We regularly review children's progress to ensure support can be put in place as early as possible.

Where appropriate, we may seek advice from external professionals including Educational Psychologists, Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists, School Nurses, Advisory Teachers and Mental Health Support services.

What support might my child receive?

Every child at St Francis receives high-quality teaching that is adapted to meet a range of needs.

For some children, this may be all that is needed.

Others may benefit from additional support, such as targeted interventions, specialist resources, emotional wellbeing support, speech and language programmes or personalised learning approaches.

Support looks different for every child because every child is different.

Our aim is always to enable children to become increasingly independent, confident and successful learners.

 Communication and Interaction • Speech and Language programmes • Narrative Therapy • Colourful Semantics • Social Stories • Visual Supports • Lego Therapy	 Cognition and Learning • Precision teaching • Phonics support • Reading Interventions • Maths Interventions • Pre-teaching vocabulary
 Social, Emotional and Mental Health • ELSA • Zones of regulation • Meet and Greet • Nurture support • Emotional wellbeing groups	 Physical and sensory needs • Sensory breaks • Fine and gross motor support • Specialist equipment • Access arrangements

• Anxiety support	
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How is support planned and reviewed?

At St Francis, support is carefully planned around each child's individual strengths and needs. Some children may have a One-Page Profile, which helps staff understand what is important to them, what they are good at and how best to support them.

Where a child requires more targeted SEND provision, they may also have an Individual Support Plan (ISP). This identifies agreed outcomes, strategies, interventions and support arrangements. Provision is reviewed regularly with children and families to ensure it remains effective and responsive to their changing needs.

How will I know how my child is doing?

We work closely with parents/carers to review progress and celebrate successes. Children's progress is monitored through ongoing assessment, review meetings, discussions with staff and regular communication with families.

Parents of children receiving SEND support will be invited to discuss progress, strengths, areas of development and next steps. We encourage families to contact us at any time if they have concerns or would like to discuss their child's progress.

How do we support transitions?

We recognise that periods of transition can be exciting but may also cause uncertainty for some children and families.

Whether children are starting at St Francis, moving to a new class or transferring to secondary school, we work closely with families and other settings to ensure transitions are carefully planned and well supported.

Additional support may include:

- meetings with staff
- additional visits
- transition booklets
- social stories
- opportunities to become familiar with new routines and environments
- enhanced transition programmes where appropriate

Our aim is to ensure every child feels confident, prepared and supported during times of change.

Listening to children

We believe children should be actively involved in decisions about their learning and support. We seek pupil view through conversations, interactions. Understanding each child's strengths, interests and aspirations helps us to ensure that support is meaningful and personalised.

Frequently asked questions

Does my child need a diagnosis to receive support?

No. Support is based on need, not diagnosis.

What is SEND support?

SEND support means your child receives provision that is additional to or different from ordinarily available classroom teaching.

What is an EHCP?

An Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) is a legal document for children with more complex needs who require additional support beyond SEND support.

Will my child have a 1:1 or teaching assistant?

Support is allocated according to need and may include classroom strategies, interventions, small group support or adult assistance.

How often will I meet school?

We review SEND regularly and meet with parents at least termly.

Working together with families

At St Francis we believe parents know their children best. We aim to:

- ✓ Listen carefully
- ✓ Communicate openly
- ✓ Involve parents in decisions
- ✓ Celebrate successes together
- ✓ Work collaboratively when challenges arise

How accessible is the school?

Reasonable adjustments are made where required to ensure pupils with disabilities and additional needs can participate fully in learning, educational visits, extra-curricular activities and wider school life.

Further information can be found in the school's Accessibility Plan, available on our website.

Useful information for families

<u>West Sussex Local offer</u> Information about education, health, social care, leisure activities and support services available for children and young people with SEND and their families. Local Offer - West Sussex County Council 	<u>Reaching families</u> A charity offering support, workshops, training and resources for parent carers of children and young people with SEND. Reaching Families 
<u>SENDIASS</u> Free, confidential and impartial advice for parents and carers. West Sussex SENDIAS Service 	<u>School website</u> Our school website contains a range of information to support parents and carers of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School - Home 
<u>IPSEA</u> National Charity that provides free and independent advice on special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). (IPSEA) Independent Provider of Special Education Advice 	<u>Thought-Full</u> West Sussex emotional wellbeing and mental health support for children, young people and families. Thought-Full - West Sussex County Council 
<u>Early Help</u> Support for families who may benefit from additional advice and practical support around parenting, behaviour, wellbeing, family relationships or attendance. Early Help services - West Sussex County Council 	<u>National Autistic Society</u> Information, guidance and practical resources for autistic children, young people and their families. National Autistic Society 

<u>British Dyslexia Association</u> Advice, resources and information about dyslexia and literacy difficulties. British Dyslexia Association 	<u>Contact</u> A national charity providing information and support for families with disabled children.  Contact: the charity for families with disabled children
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Questions, Concerns or Complaints

We value open communication and encourage parents to discuss any concerns with us as soon as possible.

In the first instance, please speak to:

1. Your child's class teacher
2. The SENDCo
3. The Headteacher

We aim to resolve concerns through discussion and partnership working. If concerns remain, parents may follow the school's Complaints Policy, which is available on the school website.