



**South Gosforth First School**

*'Roots to grow and wings to fly'*

**South Gosforth First School**  
**Special Educational Needs & Disabilities**  
**Information Report – 2020-2021**

	<b>Staff</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read it</li><li>• Chance for feedback</li></ul>	<b>FGB/Sub committee</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approved</li></ul>	<b>Accessible</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Website link</li><li>• Saved</li></ul>
<b>Review Date:</b>	<b>September 2020</b>	<b>September 2020</b>	<b>September 2020</b>
<b>Next Review Due:</b>	<b>September 2021 (or earlier if additional guidance becomes available)</b>		

**Member of staff with responsibility:**

- Mr Adams (Head Teacher)
- Mrs Fields (Assistant Head Teacher, SENCo and Designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children)
- Mrs Browne (SEND and Inclusion Link Governor)

**Summary of main points and actions:**

- Rationale and objectives
- Information on identification of SEND
- Support and provision for SEND pupils
- External agencies and useful contacts



**South Gosforth First School**  
**Special Educational Needs & Disabilities**  
**Information Report 2020-2021**

This document is intended to provide parents, carers and families with information on how we support pupils identified with a special educational needs or disability.

**The SEND Information Report should be read in consultation with the SEND policy, Accessibility Plan and Annual SEND Report. Together they include details of:**

- The school's admission arrangements for pupils with SEN or disabilities
- The steps school have taken to prevent pupils with SEN or disabilities from being treated less favourably than other pupils
- The facilities provided to assist access to the school by pupils with SEN and disabilities.

***(Children and Families Act 2014, Part 3)***

Paper copies of any of the policies or documents mentioned can be obtained, free of charge, from the School Office.

**Our school:**

South Gosforth First School is a two-form entry First School with approximately 300 children on roll from the local area. We are a proud member of the Gosforth Schools' Trust and work closely with these schools and the Local Authority to ensure the best provision for all of our children.

**Our vision:**

Our purpose is to provide the highest quality of education so that each child can reach his/her full potential in school and in life.

We believe our school should be a happy place:

- where the safety and well-being of children is paramount
- where everyone is respected and valued
- where learning is a shared experience
- where there are high expectations and high standards of achievement
- where we celebrate personal and shared success
- where we all feel positive, confident and comfortable
- where the work we do is worthwhile, stimulating and exciting
- where it is safe to express worries about things we can't do or don't understand
- which is bright, attractive, cared for, safe and welcoming

**SEN Information:**

We aim to ensure that all pupils are supported to reach their potential personally, socially, emotionally and academically regardless of their gender, ethnicity, social background, religion, physical ability or educational needs. We recognise, and value, the need for a full range of educational and pastoral support. We work very closely with various professionals from a wide range of outside agencies and staff have a

range of training and skills to support special educational needs. We have a SENCo and SEND Link Governor who continually monitor practice and ensure that individual pupil's needs are met. We have two licensed childhood Thrive Practitioners to support pupils with their social and emotional development. We also have two members of staff who are trained as attachment leads for school by 'TouchBase' (one at Level 4 and one at Level 6) to support our pupils who are experiencing attachment difficulties.

School staff will inform parents and carers if they have any concerns over children's progress or development and they will also be kept informed of any intervention their child is taking part in and be kept up to date with the impact of the intervention. The school follows an 'Assess, Plan, Review, Do' cycle (See SEND Policy). If required external specialists will be consulted to support in early identification and recommending provision to match the needs of each individual child. The involvement of outside agencies or other professionals will always be discussed and agreed in advance with parents and carers. In addition, if school and professionals feel that a child's needs are severe and complex and cannot be met within the resources available, a request for an education, health and care assessment may be made to the Local Authority (LA). This would be completed following a discussion with parents and carers.

On our school website you can find links to other useful SEND information including our policies on SEND, Equality and Accessibility. South Gosforth First School operates its SEND provision in line with Newcastle Local Authority's SEN and disabilities policies and procedures. To access more information in relation to this including different agencies who will be able to provide more support and guidance for specific special educational needs go to Newcastle's Local Offer:

<https://www.newcastlesupportdirectory.org.uk/localoffer>

If you would like further information about what South Gosforth First School can offer, please contact our SENCO, Jo Fields, by phone on 0191 2853453 or email [jo.fields@southgosforth.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:jo.fields@southgosforth.newcastle.sch.uk)

Parents can also contact Newcastle Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice and Support Service for impartial information, advice and support in relation to their pupil's SEN and/or disability. The Newcastle Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice and Support Service officer is Judith Lane. She can be contacted on 0191 284 0480 or by email:

[judith.lane@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:judith.lane@newcastle.gov.uk)

**There are a number of reasons why a child may be identified as having SEN:**

- They are having significant difficulty with their learning and are making far less progress than would be expected.
- They have a specific learning difficulty, for example dyslexia.
- They have emotional or mental health difficulties.
- They have difficulties with social communication and interaction.

- They have sensory and/or physical needs, for example a hearing impairment.

**For all children at South Gosforth**

**First School who have an additional need:**

- We use Pupil Profiles which clearly state the pupil's area(s) of need, their targets and the provision and resources to be implemented to support them in meeting the targets set for them.
- We involve the pupil, parents or carers and key staff members in the writing, implementing and reviewing of Pupil Profiles.
- We use the Newcastle SEND mainstream guidance to support the provision which we provide for pupils in school.
- We deliver high quality teaching, differentiating the curriculum and our resources to meet the needs of individual pupils and to promote pupil progress.
- We seek support and advice from a range of outside agencies to ensure barriers to success are fully identified and responded to.
- We operate a graduated response based upon need; assess, plan, do, review which is monitored by the SENCO.
- All school-related activities are evaluated in terms of their positive impact on the learning success and inclusion of pupils with SEN.
- We use strategies to reduce anxiety/ promote emotional well-being.
- We ensure that our school activities and trips are accessible to all our SEN pupils.
- Support staff are placed where they are needed throughout the school to ensure pupil progress and independence.
- All staff have completed and continue to receive, on-going training in relation to meeting pupils' needs in the classroom.
- Support is offered to families and they are signposted to services and organisations which may offer appropriate support or advice via the Newcastle Local Offer.
- We offer support to all pupils and parents during all periods of transition.
- We liaise closely with other schools at transition times to ensure that SEN pupil information is clearly communicated so that the move to the next school is as smooth as possible.
- We work in partnership with parents and carers to meet the needs of individual pupils.

**Specific provision made at South Gosforth First School:**

<b>Types of SEN</b>	<b>Support/ provision/ staff expertise</b>
<p><b>Communication and Interaction</b></p> <p>This may include:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual timetables to support pupils to understand what will happen and when.</li> <li>• Areas of classroom are clearly defined and labelled.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD)</li> <li>• Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN)</li> <li>• Developmental Language Disorder (DLD)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support during times of stress or anxiety.</li> <li>• Areas of low distraction / individual workstations.</li> <li>• Movement breaks and a carefully planned sensory diet.</li> <li>• Social skills support through small group interventions e.g. circle time programme, social stories.</li> <li>• Building block-based therapy to develop social communication skills.</li> <li>• Use of ICT where possible to reduce barriers to learning.</li> <li>• Support or supervision at unstructured times of the day e.g. break time and lunchtime where appropriate.</li> <li>• Resources to support pupils with speech and language difficulties e.g. word banks, visual prompts.</li> <li>• Opportunity to communicate in various ways e.g. communication books.</li> <li>• Small group or one-to-one support for developing pupil's speech, language and communication following programmes of work provided by outside specialists such as speech and language therapists.</li> <li>• Resources to reduce anxiety and promote emotional wellbeing e.g. fiddle toy, stress ball, tangles.</li> <li>• Forest School provision.</li> <li>• Access to 'The Rainbow Room' – Our school sensory space.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Social, Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties</b></p> <p>This may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social difficulties</li> <li>• Mental health conditions</li> <li>• Emotional difficulties</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our 'Restorative Approach to Positive Behaviour Policy' provides support for all children in school to develop the skills and awareness to identify for themselves when their behaviour is changing, to choose an appropriate course of action to help 'get back to green – READY' and to self-regulate. Staff offer support to pupils to enable them to do this effectively where appropriate.</li> <li>• Risk assessments are carried out to ensure the safety and inclusion of all pupils in all activities.</li> <li>• Visual timetables to support pupils to understand what will happen and when.</li> <li>• Areas of classroom are clearly defined and labelled.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support during times of stress or anxiety.</li> <li>• Areas of low distraction / individual workstations.</li> <li>• Movement breaks and a carefully planned sensory diet.</li> <li>• Referrals to specialists outside of the school where appropriate (Educational Psychology Service, CYPS, The Virtual School).</li> <li>• Small group or one-to-one targeted programmes are delivered to pupils to improve social skills and emotional resilience e.g. Therapeutic Story Writing, circle time programme, social stories.</li> <li>• Meet and greets for children coming in to school displaying separation anxiety.</li> <li>• Older children in school take on roles, such as 'Play Leaders' to support the development of social interaction skills in others as well as themselves.</li> <li>• 1:1 Thrive assessments and plans focus on social and emotional development for children who require additional support.</li> <li>• Building block based therapy to develop social communication skills.</li> <li>• Our Year 4 residential trip to Robinwood helps to develop social, emotional and behavioural resilience and promote independence.</li> <li>• Senior Leaders are trained in positive handling techniques.</li> <li>• Resources to reduce anxiety and promote emotional wellbeing e.g. fiddle toy, stress ball, tangles.</li> <li>• Use of individualised reward systems to promote learning and enhance self-esteem.</li> <li>• Forest School provision.</li> <li>• Access to 'The Rainbow Room' – Our school sensory space.</li> <li>• Two members of staff are trained as Attachment Leads in school through 'TouchBase' – One at Level 4 and one at Level 6.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cognition and Learning Needs</b></p> <p>This may include:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategies to promote and develop literacy and mathematical skills with increasing independence.</li> <li>• Additional small group support in class from the class teacher and teaching assistant.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning Difficulties (Moderate – MLD)</li> <li>• Specific Learning Difficulties (Dyslexia, Dyscalculia, Dyspraxia)</li> <li>• Developmental Co-ordination Disorder</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small group or one-to-one intervention programmes are delivered to improve skills in reading, writing and maths e.g. Toe by Toe, Sound Linkage, Power of 2, Nessy, Teodorescu and Numicon.</li> <li>• Small group phonics teaching for Lower Key Stage 2 pupils at their level of phonics acquisition.</li> <li>• Use of ICT where possible to reduce barriers to learning e.g. Nessy.</li> <li>• Use of support materials and resources e.g. Numicon.</li> <li>• Provision of table top resources to promote independence and ensure that learning is multi-sensory and practical.</li> <li>• Strategies and resources to support dyslexic pupils e.g. coloured overlays for reading, word banks to support spelling of key words</li> <li>• Alternative approaches to recording promoted.</li> <li>• Opportunities for repetition of key learning.</li> <li>• Additional processing/thinking time for responding to questions, completing tasks, sharing ideas.</li> <li>• Differentiated and, where applicable, individually personalised homework.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sensory and/or Physical Needs</b></p> <p>This may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hearing impairment (HI)</li> <li>• Visual impairment (VI)</li> <li>• Multi-sensory impairment</li> <li>• Physical Disabilities</li> <li>• Medical Needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff work with specialists such as ‘The Hearing Impairment Service’ or a member of the ‘Visually Impaired team’ to seek advice and guidance on meeting the needs of individual pupils.</li> <li>• Staff work with specialists from outside the school during relevant training and professional development to support pupils with significant medical needs.</li> <li>• Strategies and programmes of work from the Occupational Therapy Service are followed for pupils with physical difficulties to support the development of gross and fine motor skills in the classroom and around school.</li> <li>• Physical aids or resources where necessary or where advised by specialists e.g. posture cushion, wobble cushion, pencil grips, writing slopes, spring scissors, therapy putty.</li> <li>• We provide support with personal and intimate care, if and when needed.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We make every effort to be as accessible as possible (See Accessibility Plan).</li> <li>• Our staff understand and apply the medicine administration policy. Designated first aid trained staff are assigned to break, lunchtimes, trips or visits, etc. (See Administering Medicines Policy).</li> <li>• Additional handwriting support through targeted intervention programmes e.g. Teodorescu.</li> <li>• One-to-one support for gross and fine motor skills in the classroom as and when required.</li> <li>• Movement breaks for pupils with motor coordination difficulties as and when required.</li> <li>• Alternative ways of recording ideas / writing / investigations.</li> <li>• Use of ICT where possible to reduce barriers to learning.</li> </ul>
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### **Evaluating the effectiveness of SEND provision:**

At the termly review meetings, the progress made by individual pupils with SEND is discussed and explained to their parents, and the views of parents on how successful the provision has been in enabling them to attain their outcomes is sought. This feeds into the targets set for the child on their next Pupil Profile.

Parent and carer views of children with SEND are also sought through annual questionnaires. The responses gained are used to monitor the effectiveness of provision by collating responses of actions that are working well and those that may be improved upon. In this way South Gosforth First School strives to continually improve the provision on offer for all children with an additional need.

The progress and attainment of those children with SEND is measured termly by the Senior Leadership Team and discussed with Class Teachers during pupil progress meetings. This enables the provision for each child to be evaluated. The SENCo compiles an annual report about the attainment of children with SEND data and this is shared with the Senior Leadership Team and the Governing Body. It is also available for any required external moderation, e.g. Ofsted, and shared with parents via the school website.

### **Who to contact in school:**

If you have any concerns about your child's learning or wellbeing at any time we would urge you to arrange to discuss the matters further with your child's Class Teacher, Mrs. Fields (SENCo) or the SEND Link Governor (Jan Browne). Appointments can be made by contacting the school office on 01912853453.

## **Useful contacts for families:**

### Newcastle Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice and Support Service:

Newcastle Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice and Support Service provide information, advice and support at any stage of a child or young person's education, and provide an Independent Supporter for families in the process of getting an Education Health and Care Plan.

This is an impartial confidential service. They provide information, advice and support for parents and carers of children with special educational needs children and young people up to the age of 25 years. They specialise in education matters but can support with social care and health issues by signposting to partners like PALS and Healthwatch (for health) and to voluntary organisations.

Telephone: 0191 284 0480

E-mail: [sendiassadmin@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:sendiassadmin@newcastle.gov.uk)

Address: The Dene Centre, Castle Farm Road, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear, NE3 1PH

### Family Advice and Support at Skills for People:

The team provides information and advice on a range of issues, from helping you to navigate your way around the Local Offer, connecting you with other services, to offering advice on a range of specific issues such as transport, holidays, activities and planning for adulthood.

They can offer you practical information and advice, appropriate to your circumstances and work across all agencies such as education, social care, health, benefits, leisure and voluntary services.

They can support you in meetings in school and help with Parental Views in the Education Health & Care Plan Assessment process. Their Information Advice and Guidance service will work with you to see if you need more in depth support such as supporting you at Early Help meetings.

Telephone: 0191 281 8737

E-mail: [information@skillsforpeople.org.uk](mailto:information@skillsforpeople.org.uk)

Website: [www.skillsforpeople.org.uk](http://www.skillsforpeople.org.uk)

## Useful links:

### Newcastle Local Offer:

[www.newcastlesupportdirectory.org.uk](http://www.newcastlesupportdirectory.org.uk)

Newcastle's Local Offer is all of the information, advice and support that children and young people with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) and their families might need to use.

They've brought it all together and published it in one place, on the Local Offer website. It's also got places to go and fun things to do. You can find school holiday activities, short breaks, and clubs and groups to join in with. There's advice and guidance on education, health and care and a range of young people's issues.

In addition you may find these websites helpful:

ADHD Foundation: [www.adhdfoundation.org.uk](http://www.adhdfoundation.org.uk)

AFASIC (speech and language support): [www.afasic.org.uk](http://www.afasic.org.uk)

The National Autistic Society: [www.autism.org.uk](http://www.autism.org.uk)

British Stammering Association: [www.stammering.org](http://www.stammering.org)

National Deaf Children's Society: <http://www.ndcs.org.uk>

Down's Syndrome Association: [www.downs-syndrome.org.uk](http://www.downs-syndrome.org.uk)

Dyslexia support from the Helen Arkell Centre: [www.helenarkell.org.uk](http://www.helenarkell.org.uk)

Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB): [www.rnib.org.uk](http://www.rnib.org.uk)

Selective Mutism Information & Research Association (SMIRA):  
[www.selectivemutism.org.uk](http://www.selectivemutism.org.uk)

Tourette's Action: [www.tourettes-action.org.uk](http://www.tourettes-action.org.uk)