

# CHIDDINGSTONE NURSERY SCHOOL CIO

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## SEND Policy Supporting Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Written by	Jill McCoy
Ratified on behalf of Nursery Trustees	July 2022
Date for Review	July 2023
Signed – Chair of Trustees	
Signed – Nursery Leader	

**This policy will be reviewed and ratified at least annually and/or following any updates to national and local guidance and procedures.**

**This policy has been impact assessed by Jill McCoy in order to ensure that it does not have an adverse effect on race, gender or disability equality.**

All children are entitled to an education that enables them to achieve the best possible educational and other outcomes and become confident young children with a growing ability to communicate their own views and ready to make the transition into compulsory education. SEND Code of Practice (Department for Education, UK, 2015).

## Statement

Chiddingstone Nursery CIO is committed to promote equality and the inclusion of all children and aims to provide an environment in which all children are supported to reach their full potential. The Nursery has regard to the statutory requirements of the SEND Code of Practice 2015, which relates to part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014 and associated regulations.

## Procedures

- We aim to provide a positive and welcoming environment where all children are supported according to their individual and unique needs.
- We have regard to the SEND Code of Practice, DfE, 2015.
- We comply with the Equality Act 2010 and promote equality of opportunity through a commitment to inclusive practice to meet the needs of individual children, ensuring all children have access to the curriculum. We make reasonable adjustments to procedures, criteria and practices and provision, making physical alterations where required.
- We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) 2021 and comply with all safeguarding and welfare requirements.
- In line with legislation, we work jointly across agencies, co-operating at a local level to meet the needs of the children in our care.
- We aim to identify the specific needs of children and address them at the earliest opportunity through a range of SEN strategies.
- We understand that children learn and develop at different rates and provide an appropriate learning environment, offering differentiated activities to meet each child's individual needs.
- We support parents/carers of children with SEN and work in partnership with them ensuring their full participation and involvement.
- We provide information of the 'local offer' to ensure parents are aware of support that is available.
- We ensure that children with learning difficulties and disabilities are appropriately involved at all stages of the graduated response, considering levels of ability.
- We operate an 'assess, plan, do, review' approach to support children with SEN or disabilities and agree clear outcomes, undertake regular monitoring, and review a child's progression following implementation of support within the nursery.
- We utilise the relevant skills and knowledge of individual practitioners to support practice within the nursery and, with permission of parents, consult with outside professionals.
- We aim, through discussion and agreement with parents, other professionals, agencies, and specialists, to meet children's identified area of need and to support strategies for ongoing support.
- We monitor and review our policy, practice, and provision to ensure it is effective and adjust where necessary.

- Chiddingstone Nursery CIO implements the Best Practice Guidance issued by Kent County Council in support of SEN practice within the setting.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

- We designate a member of staff to be the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) and give her name to parents. Our SENCO is:

### **Mrs Megan Downing supported by Miss Sam Wells**

- Chiddingstone Nursery CIO ensures that the provision for children with learning difficulties and disabilities is the responsibility of all members of the setting, with the SENCO providing additional support to staff to facilitate them in this role.
- The SENCO ensures that training, advice, and support is offered and available to all staff in the setting and ensures that all staff are aware of their responsibility for the provision for children with special educational needs.
- The SENCO supports staff members in the monitoring of children, liaising and planning appropriate actions and ensuring plans are implemented and regularly reviewed.
- The SENCO, Mrs Megan Downing, is assisted in her role by Miss Sam Wells.
- The designated SENCO takes the lead in monitoring and reviewing any action taken to support the children.
- The SENCO provides appropriate means for record keeping and ensures these are kept and updated.
- The SENCO liaises with parents/carers and other professionals.
- The SENCO, in agreement and conjunction with parents, consults with outside agencies where appropriate.  
Where required, the SENCO will recommend and source additional training for staff.
- We raise awareness of our special education provision via our website and or promotional materials.
- The SENCO and staff team will consider if the child may have special educational needs or a disability which may require specialist support. A referral will be made to Kent's SEND department for further advice and guidance.
- All staff will listen when parents express concerns about development. Concerns will be gathered with all other relevant information (the voice of the child, observations, EYFS outcomes, 2yr progress check or other progress reports and health and development review) and considered with parents/carers and other professionals.
- Discussions with parents/carers also provides insight into a child's feelings or interests outside the setting. There may be many factors affecting the child such as a new baby, parent separation, bereavement, COVID lockdown etc that will often have a knock-on effect on the child's behaviour, progress or development and will need to be considered when planning support.
- When making a referral to Kent SEND its important to gain the consent from the parent unless there is a good reason not to (i.e., child protection issue, public protection matter etc) Guidance on sharing information with relevant services when there are safeguarding concerns is available via: Information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

- When a child is aged between two and three, we undertake a two-year check. If there are significant concerns (or identified SEN or disability) then we will develop a targeted plan to support the child involving other professionals (if appropriate) and the parents/carers. The two-year check is also provided to support the health and development review that is undertaken by the health visitor ensuring integrated working.

It is the overall responsibility of the Chiddingstone Nursery CIO Nursery Trustees to ensure that children's special educational needs and disabilities are known and met within the Nursery. To meet this requirement, the Nursery Trustees ensure that the SENCO is supported in the day-to-day management of the SEN provision within the setting and provided with sufficient time to carry out her duties.

The legal frameworks for this policy include:

- The Education Act 2011
- The Equality Act 2010
- The Children and Families Act and associated SEN regulations, 2014