

## St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School

### Information for Parents of Children with Special Educational Needs 2018/19

The SEN information report was reviewed in September 2017 by the SENCO in consultation with parents of children with SEN at our school.

All Richmond maintained schools have a broadly similar approach to meeting the needs of pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and are supported by the Local Authority to ensure that all pupils make the best possible progress in school and are given the best chance to reach their potential.

All schools are supported to be as inclusive as possible, with the needs of pupils with special educational needs being met in a mainstream setting whenever possible and where this reflects the wishes of the families.

Admissions of pupils with SEND are considered on the same basis as those without SEND. The school Admissions Code of Practice requires children and young people with SEN to be treated fairly. Admissions authorities:

- Must consider applications from parents of children who have SEN but do not have an EHC plan on the basis of the school's admissions criteria as part of normal admissions procedures.
- Must not refuse to admit a child who has SEN but does not have an EHC plan because they do not feel able to cater for those needs.
- Must not refuse to admit a child on the grounds that they do not have an EHC plan.

Where parents wish to send their child to St Elizabeth's, the admissions process is the same as for children without additional needs except where pupils have an Education Health Care Plan. In such cases parents need to contact the SEN department at the London Borough of Richmond and ask for a place at St Elizabeth's to be offered. The school will then be sent papers detailing the child's needs and a request to consider whether or not these can be met within the setting.

Our school welcomes pupils with a variety of additional needs. All parents who are considering St Elizabeth's are invited to attend a tour of the school. Parents of children whose special educational needs and / or disability are already established, should book an individual meeting with the Head teacher/Deputy Head or SENCO to discuss these and any provision that the school can offer.

The local offer of services provided by the local authority via Achieving for Children can be found at:

- [www.afclocaloffer.org.uk](http://www.afclocaloffer.org.uk)
- 0208 547 4722
- [sendlocaloffer@achievingforchildren.org.uk](mailto:sendlocaloffer@achievingforchildren.org.uk)

The special educational needs and disabilities information, advice and support service (SENDIASS) can be found at:

- [www.kids.org.uk/sendiaass](http://www.kids.org.uk/sendiaass)
- 0208 831 6179
- [richmondkingston@kids.org.uk](mailto:richmondkingston@kids.org.uk)

1. Who are the best people to talk to at St Elizabeth's about my child's difficulties with learning, special educational needs or disability?

Talk to your child's class teacher about your concerns. It is likely that the class teacher will have discussed your concerns with the SENCO. You may wish to arrange a meeting with the SENCO. If you continue to have concerns, arrange to discuss these with the Headteacher.

2. How will the school let me know if they have any concerns about my child's learning, special educational needs or disability?

- Your child's class teacher may initially speak to you at the beginning or the end of a normal school day and arrange a further time to discuss the concerns.
- The class teacher may also talk to you about any issues at a parent/teacher consultation meeting.
- The SEND/inclusion manager may contact you and arrange a meeting to discuss your child's difficulties with learning and any possible support strategies the school might be considering.
- Referrals to outside agencies for specialist advice maybe discussed and planned.

3. How will the school consider my views and those of my child with regard to her/his difficulties with learning, special educational needs or disabilities?

- At St Elizabeth's we believe it is very important for parents/carers to be involved in all areas of their child's learning and we actively encourage discussions. We believe, where appropriate, that it is essential to understand your child's views on any difficulties they may experience with their learning.
- You will be able to share your views and discuss your child's progress at parents' evenings with their class teacher.
- You will be able to meet termly with the SENCO and class teacher to discuss their SEN support plan.
- If your child has an *Education, Health and Care plan* (EHCP) you and your child will be able to share your views at the Annual Review.

4. How does St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School ensure the teaching staff is appropriately trained to support my child's special educational needs and/or disability?

- At St Elizabeth's we believe that your child's learning needs will first be met through the high quality teaching delivered by her/his class teacher.
- We regularly review the school training schedule and professional development for all teaching and support staff to ensure there is the appropriate expertise to support children with special educational needs.
- The school is able to access training programmes from different organisations.
- Individual training can also be arranged when necessary.

5. How will the curriculum and the school environment be matched to my child's needs?

- At St Elizabeth's we believe that your child's learning needs will first be met through the high quality teaching delivered by her/his class teacher.
- All teachers have a clear understanding of individual children's progress and attainment and will quickly identify gaps in understanding/learning when these occur.
- We carefully plan our curriculum to match the age, ability and needs of all children.
- The class teacher will adapt lesson planning and teaching to match your child's special educational needs and/or disability.
- It may be appropriate to adopt different strategies or resources and adapt outcomes to meet your child's learning needs.
- Additional specialist advice is sought when appropriate and, when necessary, accessibility aids and technology may be used to support your child's learning.
- St Elizabeth's regularly reviews its Accessibility Plan to ensure that all children have the fullest access to the curriculum and the school site as possible.

## 6. What types of support may be suitable and available for my child?

This really depends upon the nature of your child's needs and difficulties with learning. But our education provisions will match the needs of the four broad areas of need as defined in the SEN Code of Practice 2014;

- **Communication and interaction**
- **Cognition and Learning**
- **Social, emotional and mental health**
- **Sensory and/or physical needs**

At St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School we have a 3 tiered approach to supporting a child's learning.

**Universal** – this is the quality first teaching your child will receive from her/his class teacher and may include some very minor adaptations to match learning needs.

**Targeted** - it may be appropriate to consider making additional short term special educational provision to remove or reduce any obstacles to your child's learning. This takes the form of a graduated four part approach of a) **assessing** your child's needs, b) **planning** the most effective and appropriate intervention, c) **providing** this intervention and d) **reviewing** the impact on your child's progress towards individual learning outcomes.

- Specific targeted one to one or small group interventions may be run within or outside the classroom. These will be limited to a number a weeks to minimise disruption to the regular curriculum. You will be kept informed of your child's progress towards learning outcomes.

**Specialist** – it may be necessary to seek specialist advice and regular long term support from a specialist professional outside the school in order to plan for the best possible learning outcomes for your child. This may include:

- educational psychology
- visual impairment service
- school counsellor
- school nurse
- child and adolescent mental health service

The school may need to prioritise referrals to these services. However, for a very small number of pupils access to these specialists may be through a Statement of SEN or an EHC Plan.

## 7. How will you support my child to reach his/her learning outcomes?

- The class teacher and other staff working with your child ensure that your child receives appropriate teaching and support in order to reach these goals. The learning plan, strategies and progress will be reviewed termly.
- External agencies and specialists may also review your child's progress and adapt their planning accordingly.

## 8. What is an EHC Plan and who can request one for one for my child?

*The purpose of an EHC Plan is to make special education provision to meet the special educational needs of a child or young person, to secure improved outcomes for him/her across education, health and social care and, as he/her gets older, prepare for adulthood. An EHC Plan will contain;*

- the views and aspirations of you and your child,
- a full description of his/her special educational needs and any health and social care needs,
- establish outcomes for your child's progress,
- specify the provision required and how education, health and social care will work together to meet your child's needs and support the achievement of the agreed outcomes

Where there are significant concerns regarding a child's special educational needs and the cost of support is over £6,000 you and/or the school, usually the SEND/inclusion manager or Headteacher can request that the local authority conduct an assessment of your child's needs in order to receive top up funding for any monies spent over this amount. This equates to approximately 10 hours of 1:1 teaching assistant support. Depending on the severity of need and the amount of support deemed necessary to support the complexity of these, the local authority may agree to the statutory assessment which may lead to the issue of an EHCP that will allow the school to continue to provide the additional support which the child is already receiving.

More information can be found at [www.afclocaloffer.org.uk](http://www.afclocaloffer.org.uk)

## 9. How will you help me to support my child's learning?

- There may be suggested strategies or activities for you to do at home to support your child's learning.
- We sometimes run parent/carer workshops in school to help you understand the strategies used in school. In addition, we may be able to offer you individual training in specific support strategies relevant to your child.
- The SEND/inclusion manager may also support you with strategies, resources and ideas for supporting your child's learning at home.
- You may have an opportunity to meet with other professionals involved in supporting your child.
- A home/school communication book.

## 10. How is support allocated to children and how do they move between the different levels of support in school?

- St Elizabeth's receives funding from the local authority. These funds include money to support the learning of children with SEN and/or disabilities.
- The Headteacher, in consultation with the School Governing Body, decides the budget for SEN provision on the basis of the needs of the children in the school.
- The Head teacher and the SEND/inclusion manager discuss the effectiveness of the school's current interventions and provisions and prioritise an action plan, which may include additional or alternative interventions, staff training and equipment needs.
- This process is reviewed regularly to ensure the best possible intervention is provided to those children who require additional support to learn.

## 11. How will the school know that the support has made a difference to my child's learning and how can I and my child be included in this review process?

- Your child's progress will be assessed both in terms of his/her regular learning within the class and with regard to specific intervention programmes.
- The impact of the support given is carefully measured to ensure that the learning outcomes have been achieved and if not, what adaptations are necessary. It may be decided that a further period of support would be beneficial for your child.
- You and your child will be kept informed and encouraged to be actively involved at all stages of this support.

## 12. What support will there be for my child's happiness and well-being at St Elizabeth's?

- At St Elizabeth's we believe that the happiness and well-being of all our pupils is paramount. All members of staff take this aspect of school life very seriously.
- You can be confident that in particular, your child's class teacher, the teaching assistants and the SEND/inclusion manager are available to provide support to match your child's needs.
- You should also feel free to contact your child's class teacher if you have any concerns.

## 13. How is my child included in all the same activities as his/her peers at school?

- St Elizabeth's is an inclusive school and committed to providing equal opportunities for all children.
- School clubs, educational visits and residential trips are available to all children.
- When necessary the school will make reasonable adjustments to ensure that children with SEN and/or disabilities are included in all activities.
- You should also feel free to contact your child's class teacher if you have any concerns.

## 14. How will St Elizabeth's support my child in transition stages?

- We recognise that transitions can be difficult for a child with SEND and take steps to ensure that any transition is as smooth as possible.
- We liaise closely with the school or nursery your child is transferring from. We are able to discuss with the relevant teachers any individual needs and how best to support your child in school.
- While at St Elizabeth's we take care to ensure that during transition points (between classes each year and at the end of Key Stages) all staff are aware of individual pupils needs, learning progress and best support strategies. Class teachers are given specific time to handover information on all learners at the end of each school year. All relevant agency reports relating to the child will be provided to the new teacher ahead of transition. Training may be put in place to improve class teacher knowledge and skills relating to the learner's SEND.
- St Elizabeth's makes arrangements to ensure there is a smooth transition when your child transfers to his/her secondary school of choice. Please contact us for further details.
- If your child has an EHC Plan, we will participate and/or facilitate its review in sufficient time prior to him/her moving between key phases of education. You will be kept informed of these arrangements and asked to attend the reviews.



15. Who can I contact if I have a complaint about the SEN provision made for my child?

- Initially speak with your child's teacher and/or the SENCO. Hopefully they will be able to address your concerns.
- You can then contact the Headteacher.
- Our Complaints Policy is available to view on our school website.

16. If I have any other questions about my child at St Elizabeth's, who can I ask?

At St Elizabeth's we are very happy to speak to you about any aspects of your child's education. It is best to speak to one of the following in this order;

- The class teacher
- SENCO – Mrs P Daborn
- The Key Stage Co-ordinator – KS1- Mrs M Jackson, KS2- Mrs D Forsdick
- The Headteacher – Mrs J Hines

## Parents' Guide to St Elizabeth's Interventions or Provision Map Table

